

Franklin Family Researchers United

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Benjamin Joseph Franklin of Missouri

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Cover Photo: Benjamin Joseph Franklin

See the biography of Benjamin Joseph Franklin in FFRU Volume 31. The photo is from the Library of Congress Photograph Collection.

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Letter from the Editor

I happened to be helping a friend to present a genealogy session at an African-American Festival at the North Carolina Museum of History one Saturday, and we finished up early in the afternoon. My friend suggested that while we were in the neighborhood, we should go across the street to the North Carolina Archives. She had a research question to answer and she also wanted a first-hand look at the progress they were making on renovations.

So, I entered the Archives mentally and physically totally unprepared. (I even walked in there with a red pen in my pocket - bad!) Remembering that the State Archives has a collection of loose wills and estate papers for each of the counties and an index to those records, I thought I'd just look at some of those - I wasn't planning on staying long anyway. I looked to see which counties had the most records for Franklins and ordered those. Not surprisingly, they happened to be the counties of Burke, Surry and Gates.¹ Within two hours I had photocopies of these original records in my hands. I was delighted with the service, promptness and helpfulness of the staff. It had been a while since I had been there, and I had forgotten how great they are.

Consequently, I thought we'd take a break from US Census records for a while and share some less-accessible records for a change. At least I thought they were "less-accessible": actually, they aren't that hard to find. Anyone in the world can go to one of over 3,500 local Family History Centers and order microfilm #1579715 for Surry County, for instance, and it would have this same information and more. For most of these estates, the only thing in the folder was the will itself, but some had a few papers more pertaining to the estate. When there was more than three or four pages, I only copied the will and whatever else looked pertinent, after just a quick glance. I have noted that in the description of each will. If you order the film, you can see all of the papers.

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1. Actually, Gates was a bit of a surprise, and I was only vaguely cognizant of the Franklins there.

PERSI: Richard and Emila Franklin Bible Record

From *Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine*, March 1983 Volume 117, No. 3, page 264-265

Births:

Richard Franklin was born June 27th 1817
E. B. Calhoun was born May the 11th 1826
Mary W. Franklin was born Sept. 29th 1847
Millie C. Franklin was born Nov. 10th 1834
David Wilson Pursley was born April 22, 1842
Richard F. Pursley was born July 16, 1866
Jimmie C. Pursley was born Nov. 15, 1868
Daisy (Burtch) Pursley was born Sept. 10, 1870
Mary Bird Pursley was born Aug. 3, 1893
Mildred Burtch Pursley was born Feb. 13, 1895
M. O. Box Sr. Born Jan. 14, 1886

Marriages:

Richard Franklin and Emila B. Calhoun was marned 17th of December 1846
On Sept. 24th 1857 Richard Franklin Jr. was married to Millie C. Pursley, Daughter of D. O. and E. M. Pursley of Alton Hill Macon City, TN
David W. Pursley and Mary W. Franklin married Oct. 5th 1865
Richard F. Pursley and Daisy B. Burtch were married Feb. 17th 1892 Clover and Cheatham Streets Union City, TN
Malcolm Box and Mildred Pursley were married Jan. 2, 1918 by W. W. Armstrong
W. C. Kelly and Mary Bird Pursley were married March 17, 1923

Deaths:

Emily B. Franklin Consort of Richard Franklin Jr. departed this life Sept. 17th 1851 thirteen minutes before 10 o'clock A.M.
Mildred C. Franklin departed this life Aug. 14th 1873
Mary Winifred Pursley wife of D. W. Pursley died Sept. 9th 1904
Jimmie C. Pursley died Feb. 25th 1887
Mary Franklin Box died Nov. 3. 1925 7:10 am.
David Wilson Pursley died July 26th. 1936 at 2:15 a.m. age 94 yrs. 3m. 4 dys.
Richard Franklin Pursley died October 15th 1940 at 5 a.m.
W. C. Kelly died April 5, 1941
Malcolm O. Box Jr. was reported killed in action Jan. 30, 1944

Editor's Notes:

This family is found in the FFRU Pedigree Volume, page 94. This chart was submitted by Elizabeth Woodmore Anderson; Box 425; Williamsport, TN 38487; and while it is the only chart submitted by her in the volume, is it entitled "Ancestor Chart #27." The Pedigree Volume does not have details about Richard, and has his name as Richard Franklin, Jr. His wife's name is Mollie B. Calhoun, and the only child (it's a pedigree chart, so it only lists one) is Mary Winfred Franklin, born 29 Sep ____, Sumner County, Tennessee; died 9 Sep 1904, Obion County, Tennessee. She married on 15 Oct 1865 (no location listed), David Wilson Pursley. He was born 22 Apr 1842; died 26 Jul 1936 in Union City, Tennessee. Other details: They are both buried in Eastview Cemetery, Obion County, Tennessee. David Wilson Pursley served the CSA in Company D, 33rd Tennessee Regiment.

David Wilson Pursley and Mary Winfred Franklin are listed as the parents of Richard Franklin Pursley, born 16 Jul 1866 in Obion County, Tennessee; died 15 Oct 1940 in Obion County, Tennessee. He married on 17 Feb 1892 (no location listed), Daisy Bird Burtch. She was born 10 Sep 1870 in Attala County, Mississippi; died 11 Jan 1953 in Union City, Tennessee.

Richard Franklin Pursley and Daisy Bird Burtch are listed as the parents of Mildred Pursley, born 13 Feb 1895 in Union City, Obion County, Tennessee. She married on 2 Jan 1918 to Malcom O. Box.

PERSI: Benjamin H. Franklin Bible Record

From *Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine*, March 1983 Volume 117, No. 3, page 265.

Marriages:

Benjamin H. Franklin was married Jan. 10, 1828

Camillia S. Franklin was married to J. H. Wright Aug. 8, 1850

H. O. Franklin was married to Miss Julia L. Karr in Richmond VA May 11th 1865

S. M. Franklin was married Jan. 23rd 1873 to Miss Lizzie M. Locke of Baltimore MD

B. Th. Franklin Jr. was married to Mackie Nance Feb. 2- 1873 [“Th.” and “2-” sic - BJJ]

Marriage Records

Eliab Thomas and Elizabeth Franklin Amherst, MA Oct. 18, 1797

Albert Gallatin Franklin and Julia L. Karr married 11 May 1865 Richmond, VA

Benjamin H. Franklin and Lucy Burchfield married 3 Jan. 1828 in Bedford Co. VA

Samuel Franklin and Rachel Powell married Jan. 1794 Augusta Co. VA

Peachy Franklin to Susannah Dillard 20 March 1799 Augusta Co. VA

Campbell Franklin to Catherine Guthrie _____, 1819 Augusta Co. VA

Mary Ann Franklin to Wm. C. Jordan² May 8, 1819 Augusta Co. VA

Editor's notes:

Without some context as to where these events happened and more about these lineages, this bible record is of little use. Not really sure about the “Marriage Records” section. Are these part of the bible or part of someone’s research into other local marriages? The “Amherst, MA” is somewhat puzzling when all of the other events take place in Virginia. I assume that this was Amherst County, Virginia, and this was an error that was introduced during transcription.

It seems that Samuel and Rachel Powell Franklin are the parents of Benjamin H. Franklin. The above-listed counties (Amherst, Augusta and Bedford) are all in close proximity to one another in Virginia. Benjamin H. Franklin presumably died 7 Aug 1861 in Roanoke County, Virginia.

The above marriage date of Albert Gallatin Franklin (11 May 1865) seems to match the census records (Albert, age 14 in 1850) which indicate that he is the son of Benjamin H. and Lucy (Burchfield) Franklin.

2. In the *Edward Pleasants Valentine papers*, Volume 2 there is a section devoted to the Jordans in Bedford County, Virginia. A typical entry from pages 630-631 reads: “**Amherst County Court Records** William C. Jordan of Amherst Co. from Nicholas Pamplin and James Pamplin of sd. Co. £200: 157 acres on both sides Elk Island, bounded by lands of James Pamplin &c. crossing Checkeyhomoney Branch to Pointers. Dec. 8, 1796. Ibid. p. 476-412.”

Census Records

1850 Virginia, Bedford County, Northern Division, page 199 HH 893/827:

Ben H. Franklin, 43m, farmer, RE\$1200, born VA; Lucy Franklin, 28f,³ born VA; Camila Franklin, 18f, born VA; Jno Franklin, 16m, laborer, born VA, [illegible handicap, listed as blind in 1860]; Abert Franklin, 14m, born VA; Mary Franklin, 12f, born VA; Ben Franklin, 10m, born VA; Eliza Franklin, 8f, born VA; Thomas Franklin, 6m, born VA; Milton Franklin, 4m, born VA; Charles Franklin, 2m, born VA.

1860 Virginia, Roanoke County, No Township Listed, page 707 HH 240/240:

Benjamin Franklin, 53m, ?????, RE\$2,500/PP\$5,055, born VA; Lucy Franklin, 51f, born VA; John Franklin, 27m, born VA, blind; Benjamin Franklin, 21m, barkeeper, born VA.

Biography: Albert Gallatin Franklin, M. D.

From *Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography*, Volume IV, by Lyon Gardiner Tyer, LL. D.; Lewis Historical Publishing Company, New York; Copyright 1915, 5 Volumes, Volume 4 entitled "Prominent persons," page 293-294. (Note: In the Google Books free, online version of this work page 293 is blank for some reason - BJJ)

Albert Gallatin Franklin, M. D.

The second to bear the honored name Albert Gallatin Franklin in Richmond, which has been the Franklin family home since 1865, Dr. Franklin has behind him the prestige of a well known and distinguished Virginia family. Born in Richmond and educated in her classical and professional schools, he has during his nearly two decades of medical practice, gained distinction in his own right and ranks with the leading men of a profession especially rich in eminent sons.

Albert Gallatin Franklin, Sr., was born in Roanoke County, Virginia, 3 Nov 1835, died in Richmond, 16 Jan 1911. He located in Richmond in 1865, engaged in the coal and wood business and rose to prominence in the city of his adoption. He married Julia Karr, who bore him thirteen children, eleven of whom are living. She died in Richmond, her native city.

Albert Gallatin Franklin, son of Albert Gallatin and Julia (Karr) Franklin, was born in Richmond, Virginia, 21 Mar 1873. He was educated in city schools, classical and professional, the University College of Medicine conferring the degree of Doctor of Medicine class of 1896. He began practice the same year, opening offices in the family residence at 210 East Clay street and continuing offices there until removing in August, 1912, to his present location 703 West Grace street. His extensive practice is general in character and is conducted along the best lines of modern medical thought. Dr. Franklin is a member of the American Medical Association, also the state and county societies. He is a member of All Saints' Protestant Episcopal Church, and in political faith is a Democrat.

Dr. Franklin married, in Richmond, 24 Jan 1900, Mattie J. Neale, born in King William County, Virginia, 23 Oct 1876, daughter of Thomas J. and Rosalie E. (Jennings) Neale, the former a ship builder of Newport News, Virginia, the latter deceased. Children: Edward Campbell Franklin, born in Richmond, 20 Jan 1902; Albert Gallatin Franklin, III, 26 Jul 1903.

Census Records

1880 Virginia, Henrico County, Richmond, page 123CHH 55/70:

A. G. Franklin, head, 44m, married, commission merchant, born VA, Fa: VA, Mo: VA; Julia L. Franklin, wife, 32f, married, housewife, born VA, Fa: Baden, Mo: Bremen; Henry Franklin, son, 14m, single, at school, born VA, Fa: VA, Mo: VA; Florence Franklin, daughter, 12f, single, at school, born VA, Fa: VA,

3. This seems incorrect and does not match the listing for 1860, so although it was clearly written "28", this was probably supposed to be 38. Assuming that she is Camila's mother, at 28, she would be only 10 years older than Camila.

Mo: VA; Charles Franklin, son, 10m, single, at school, born VA, Fa: VA, Mo: VA; Albert Franklin, son, 7m, single, born VA, Fa: VA, Mo: VA; Benjamin Franklin, son, 5m, single, born VA, Fa: VA, Mo: VA; Julia Franklin, daughter, 3f, single, born VA, Fa: VA, Mo: VA; Kate Franklin, daughter, 1f, single, born VA, Fa: VA, Mo: VA; Lucy Binford, other, 22f, mulatto, single, born VA, Fa: VA, Mo: VA, servant. Address: 208 Clay Street.

1900 Virginia, Richmond City, Monroe Ward, page 7A HH 103/150:

A. G. Franklin, head, 64m, born Nov 1835, married 34 years, traveling salesman, born VA, FA: VA, Mo: VA; Julia Franklin, wife, 52f, born Mar 1848, married 34 years, 13 children/11 living, born VA, Fa: Germany, Mo: Germany; Florence Franklin, daughter, 32f, born Jan 1868, born VA, FA: VA, Mo: VA; Charles A. Franklin, son, 30m, born Mar 1870, traveling salesman, born VA, FA: VA, Mo: VA; Benjamin A. Franklin, son, 25m, born May 1875, traveling salesman, born VA, FA: VA, Mo: VA; Julia B. Franklin, daughter, 23f, born Feb 1877, born VA, FA: VA, Mo: VA; Katherin M. Franklin, daughter, 20f, born Jun 1879, born VA, FA: VA, Mo: VA; Robert C. Franklin, son, 18m, born Mar 1882, lithographer, born VA, FA: VA, Mo: VA; Earnest L. Franklin, son, 15m, born Jul 1884, at school, born VA, FA: VA, Mo: VA; Grace Franklin, daughter, 12f, born Feb 1888, at school, born VA, FA: VA, Mo: VA; Mary B. Franklin, daughter, 9f, born Sep 1890, at school, born VA, FA: VA, Mo: VA; Sarah Simpson, servant, 59f, born Nov 1841, widow, black, 3 children/0 living, born VA, FA: VA, Mo: VA. Address: 210 Clay Street.

1900 Virginia, Richmond City, Clay Ward, page 9B HH 180/213:

A. G. Franklin, head, 27m, born Mar 1873, physician, born VA, Fa: VA, Mo: VA; Mattie J. Franklin, wife, 23f, born Oct 1877, 0 children/0 living, born VA, Fa: VA, Mo: VA.

Queries

The surnames I am researching are Vest, Shelton, Franklin and Hensley. My ancestor Robert Vest came to Greene County from somewhere (Most likely North Carolina) he married Lynda Franklin Hensley. They had two sons, George W. and Baxter Vest. I have no date for Sarah Melinda <Lynda/Linnie> Franklin Hensley Ray Vest

Laura Lynn Vest; 117 1/2 Vista Bonita; Glendora, CA 91741 <L.L.Vest@gmail.com>

Editor's Response: Look at Volume 35 of FFRU, which seems to have more detail on your Franklin line than you have been able to uncover so far. You can download it for free from the FFRU website.

I am wondering if the posting in 1997 of Henry W. Franklin and Martha F. Holt you say that came from the LDS are these people related to you? I am wondering if there might be more information on this family? I am interested in the first daughter Temperance Jane Franklin. Thanks,

Kelly Bayles <kellybayles@yahoo.com>

Editor's Response: Yes, I posted that information in 1997. No, I am not related. If you want to see what information is available from the IGI, it's at: www.familysearch.org There is additional information available about this family in FFRU Volume 14.

What do you have in your files on one Robert Lewis Franklin from Virginia back in the early-mid 1700s? I don't have the details on me right now, but wondered if you had anything. DNA is indicating a strong tie to this guy in Virginia and has given us new leads. I'm also looking for any info on James Franklin son of Josiah Franklin and Abiah Folger. This James, is supposedly the father of Robert Lewis Franklin. This James is a brother of the Benjamin Franklin, statesman. Thx!
Lisa R. Franklin <webmaster@trackingyourroots.com>

Editor's Response: Yes, I saw the version that someone posted to Rootsweb World Tree/Ancestry World Tree. Of the 179 versions of James Franklin's lineage, only one person seems to be of that opinion, and has posted it without any source references, so there is no doubt that it is incorrect. If someone were to find actual evidence that the lineage exists, then they would be more than happy, delighted, ecstatic, and insistent to post the information that verifies it.

As you know, every Franklin family claims some sort of (creative) connection to The Statesman. Most make this specious claim through either James or his brother John, which would make these two men the fathers of hundreds of progeny. Unfortunately, neither records nor contemporaneous accounts support such assertions. John's children and the children of all of this brothers and sisters are mentioned in John's Will. Ben Franklin's living kinfolk and heirs are all mentioned in Ben Franklin's will. They are also accounted for in Ben Franklin's own family history research. None of these mention a Robert Lewis or Robert L. Franklin, or even a Robert, for that matter, except as an ancestor (born 1563).

One of my favorite accounts of the direct descendants of Benjamin Franklin is the one written by William Duane and William Bache, two well-known (real) descendants, in the 1854 NEHGR (page 374). My favorite account of the extended family is the chart that The Statesman himself prepared. It was reproduced in the records of the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, as part of the article Franklin as a Genealogist by John W. Jordan. (Vol. XXIII., 1899, No. 1). This lists James as the father of four children, but does not name any. My best information is that these children were James, Abiah, Hannah and Sarah. This James is also mentioned in John's Will. These children were born in Newport, Rhode Island, which is where James (The Statesman's brother) spent his later life, after growing up and starting business in Boston (not Pennsylvania). So, if Robert Lewis were the son of James, it appears that he would have been from Rhode Island, rather than Virginia or Pennsylvania.

The only other male descendant of any of The Statesman's siblings that is listed in these records is the son of John, listed as: "John lost at sea a young man." His father's will does not list the son, and therefore, it is obvious he was never found in later years, so "lost" in this case is not missing, but rather died (regardless of silly attempts to claim that the North Carolina John Franklin of Surry County is the same person, despite being about 10 years too young).

Anyway, as with any genealogical question, competent researchers are always willing to re-evaluate their conclusions in light of new evidence. If anyone has any evidence that Robert Lewis Franklin is somehow related to The Statesman, that would be great. Until that evidence surfaces...

I am looking for information of Robert Franklin (aka Robert R. Franklin) born 18 Oct 1840 (also documented as 18 Oct 1842, and 1850), Little Rock,⁴ Pulaski County, Arkansas and died 17 Jun 1929, Kohrville, Harris County, Texas. In about 1874 he married Selvina Henry (aka Sylvina Henry). She was born 2 Jun 1854, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana and died 8 Feb 1937, Houston, Harris County, Texas. By the time of the 1880 census, they were living in Harris County, Texas. Robert and Selvina are buried in Ehrhardt Cemetery, Spring Township, Harris County, Texas. Children: Mary Franklin, born 1876, Texas; John Batis Franklin, born 3 Feb 1877, Texas; Thomas Benjamin Franklin, born Mar 1880, Texas, died 1957, buried Perry Cemetery, Harris County, Texas; Margaret Franklin, born Aug 1884, Texas; Robert Franklin, born Jan 1877, Texas; Willie Leazem Franklin, born 1 Feb 1891, Huffsmith, Harris County, Texas; died 14 Jun 1961 in Houston, Harris County, Texas; Martha Franklin, born Jan 1893, Huffsmith, Harris County, Texas; Laura Franklin, born Jul 1895, Huffsmith, Harris County, Texas; Albert Franklin, born Jun 1898, Huffsmith, Harris County, Texas; died 1945; buried Perry Cemetery, Harris County, Texas; Celeste Franklin, born 1905, Texas, married Martin Hockman. I would deeply appreciate any help that anyone would have. Suzette Tuberville <suzettecma@yahoo.com>

Editor's Note: Get Robert's death cert. The Texas page on vitalrec.com says that they cost \$20. That is a lot of money for a photocopy. The North Carolina page says \$20, too, but if you go to the NC archives and copy it yourself, it is 25 cents, and if you order one from, say Durham County, they will just fax it to you for free. Similarly, there should be alternative methods for Texas. However, in a brief internet search, I didn't see one. It might be best to just bite the bullet and pay the \$20. It seems like a lot of money, but it might be the cheapest, fastest, surest way to determine who Robert's parents were. According to Franklin Fireplace page 417, Robert's is certificate #30712 and Selvina's is #9004

The death certificate contains blanks for the parents' names. If the respondent/next-of-kin knew the names of Robert's parents when he died in 1929, then these blanks should be filled in, and that would be very nice. Just for grins we can look at the census. We do know from the census that Robert's father was born in Alabama and his mother was born in Tennessee. If we look in the 1850 Arkansas census for a husband born in AL and wife in TN, with a possible son named Robert...

A brief synopsis of the census pertaining to them:

1880 Texas, Harris County, ED 80, page 232D (incorrectly enumerated as Robert and Celesteen Frankling);

1900, same county, Selvina had 11 children, 9 living;

1910, same county, 12 children, 9 living;

1920, same county;

1930, same county, living with daughter, Celeste Hockman

Not much in 1850. In 1860 (Bradley County, Arkansas) there's a Robert age 9 living with his mom? born KY, father? (Madison Franklin), born AL. Not too bad a match, but nothing conclusive - it's just semi-interesting.

4. Editor's Note: Although it was already a well-known river crossing when the Arkansas Territory was created in 1819 the city of Little Rock was founded in 1831.

Wills and Will Books

A will is a document of one or more pages that the testator created, frequently with the aid of an attorney. It was actually is **signed** (or marked) **by the testator himself/herself** and signed (or marked) by the witnesses - usually at least two. It was then carried to the county courthouse and transcribed by a county clerk into a will book, where the clerk, in the clerk's own handwriting makes a copy of the entire document including the various signatures. That is when the will is "recorded." This is theoretically an "exact" copy, but the transcriber will invariably put their own interpretation on the document and will frequently end up with at least some minor differences. The county will book ultimately then is a bound volume of hundreds of wills kept among the probate records of the county. Most counties have multiple volumes of these will books. The original will still exists as a separate document and may be filed in among the various estate papers. Unless noted otherwise, those loose, individual, original wills are what I have included in this volume.

Will of Barnard Franklin of Surry County, North Carolina

Transcribed by Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. The following transcription is of the original Will on file at the North Carolina Archives, copy in possession of FFRU Editor. Reverse side: "The last will and testament of Barnard Franklin recorded 1820, Book 4, page 10." This will was published in Franklin Fireplace (pages 590-591). There has been considerable interest in and research performed on this prolific and illustrious line. Bernard was the father of Jesse Franklin, the Governor of North Carolina. See FFRU Volume 28.

In the name of god amen I Barnard Franklin⁵ of the County of Surry and state of North Carolina calling to mind that it is appointed for all men to die and being at this time of sound mind and memory do make constitute and ordain This my last will and Testament revoking all others heretofore made. first it is my will and desire that at my decease my Executors herein after named cause my Body to be decently Buried in a plain manner, and that they Cause all my Just Debts there being but few to be punctually paid — Then touching the estate with which it has pleased god to Bless me. I will and dispose of in the following manner, first observing that at the arival of each of my children at Lawful age, I have given them and each of them a Small portion of property, not materially different in value, of which I take no further notice than to pray god to bless them in its uses, since that time.

-
5. "Dr. John Taliaferro first patented land in Pittsylvania County in 1769. At the outbreak of the American Revolution, he bravely responded to his country's call, and on 12 Sep 1776, he organized a company of minute men, of which he was made captain. The Pittsylvania County records show that in 1779 he sold his property, spoken of as "his home," and moved to Surry County, North Carolina. With a heart filled with love for his fellowman, his country and his God, he left his home and relatives in the Old Dominion State and crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains into Surry County to do a greater and nobler work that God had planned for him. With the family of Dr. John Taliaferro, came his beloved friend, Bernard Franklin, and his family, to Surry, where they settled on Fishers River.

Surry County is one of the northwestern counties of North Carolina and joins Grayson, Carroll, and Patrick counties, Virginia. It is a romantic section, and produces a people equally romantic. The highest part of the majestic Blue Ridge, a branch of the great Alleghany, stands in bold view, overlooking the whole country. From its base flow many crystal streams as cold as ice water can be made in Southern cities. Some of them are dignified with the name of "river." Thus there are "Mitchell's River," "Big Fisher's River." and "Little Fisher's River," and of creeks there are "Stewart's Creek." "Ring's Creek," "Beaver Dam Creek," and so forth. All these streams, with branches and springs constantly pouring into them, after running a short and swift course precipitate themselves into the pure, clear, and rapid Yadkin. Near the foot of the Blue Ridge, on its spurs and ridges, and on those rivers and creeks, lived the families of Dr. John Taliaferro and Bernard Franklin." From *Ancestry And Posterity Of Dr. John Taliaferro And Mary Harding Taliaferro : With Notes On Berrymand, Newton, Beheathland, Franklin, Lingo And Other Southern Families* by Willie Catherine Ivey, pages 115-116.

I have given to my son Jeremiah Franklin one negro Boy Called Westly,⁶ and two hundred dollars in Cash. To my son Barnard Franklin I have also given one negro Boy Called Joseph and the Like sum of two Hundred dollars in Cash.

also I have given to my son Jesse Franklin one Hundred and twenty five dollars in Cash.

also I have given to my son Abner Franklin one negro Boy called Absalem and one Hundred dollars

also to my son Shadrack Franklin I have given one negro Boy called Henry and one Hundred and seventy five dollars in Cash.

also to my daughter Mary Nall I have given one negro Girl called Caty and one Hundred dollars in cash.

also to my son Mashack I have given two Hundred and twenty five dollars in Cash.

also to my son Abednego Franklin I have given two Hundred dollars in Cash—

To make an Equality in the distribution of my estate among my Children it is my will and I hereby leave

To my son Jesse Franklin one negro boy Called Bryson and the sum of one Hundred dollars—

To my son Abner Franklin I leave the sum of one Hundred[sic] two Hundred and twenty five dollars

To my son Mashack Franklin I leave one negro Girl called Fereby*

[text in the left margin] *To my son Shadrack I leave fifty dollars.[end of text in left margin]

To my Grand Children sons and daughters of my son Abednego I leave one negro Girl called Mourning and the sum of twenty five dollars to them share and share alike, they Jointly representing their father in the same manner as if living—

To my Daughter mary Nall I leave the sum of one Hundred and twenty five dollars —

then to my friend Mary Harvey I leave one feather Bed and furniture to her, and heirs forever. I furthermore leave to my said friend Mary Harvey one negro Boy Called Ambrose - During her natural life, and at her decease it is my Will and Desire that my Executors Dispose of the said negro Boy upon the best Terms in their descretion and the proceeds thereof to be equally divided among all my surviving Children, and my Grand Children of such as may have died Such grandchildren representing their parent in the same manner as if such parent was living — then the remainder of my estate it is my will and desire that it shall be equally divided among all my surviving Children, and my Grand Children of such as may have Died. Such Grand-Children representing their [some text crossed out] father or mother as the Case may be in the same manner as if living—

To effect such equal Division it is my wish and desire that my executors cause my negroes not already desposed off by this my last will to be placed into eight Lots of as equal Value as Can be done and to be Drawn for by the legatees or some indeferent person for them but if it should so Happen that the above mode cannot be Conveniently executed — then in that Case it is my will that they be desposed off to the Highest bidder upon a Credit of twelve months, and the proceeds thereof to be equally divided as aforesaid — its further

6. Jeremiah Franklin, Amherst County, Virginia, 9 Dec 1818, Asked for permission to keep a slave given to him by his father, Bernard Franklin in Surry County, North Carolina, in the state. Reel: 10 Box: 12 Folder: 51 See:

<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/gov/petitions/>

my will and desire that my Lands and stock of every kind - Household furnature waggon, still & plantation utensals — shall be sold to the Highest Bidder upon a Credit of twelve months and the proceeds thereof with all outstanding Debts and Such money as I may leave on hand to be equally Divided among all my Surviving Children and my Grandchildren of such as may have died previous to the execution of this my last will — my Grand Children representing their respective parent — father or mother as the case may be in the same manner as if such parent my Son or my Daughter would have done if Living. I leave my sons Jesse Franklin Shadrack Franklin and Mashack Franklin my Executors in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 18th day of April 1820

(signed) Barnard Franklin (seal)

Entered before signed at the 2d page eight line (with the words I leave) to my son Shadrack fifty dollars
Bernard Franklin Junr
Taliaferro Franklin Jt
Wyle Franklin Jt

Will of James Franklin of Surry County, North Carolina

Transcribed by Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. The following transcription is of the original Will on file at the North Carolina Archives, copy in possession of FFRU Editor. Reverse side: James Franklin, Nuncupative⁷ Will, Proved at February term AD 1819, Recorded and Copy issued to the Executor & JWCC. Book 3, page 138. As is typical of old wills, there are many spellings in this document which are no longer standard. Original spellings preserved. One example of this is that “Franklin” is usually spelled correctly, however it is also spelled “Frankin” and “Franktin.” The writer seems to have been enthusiastic about crossing his L’s. When the word “give” would have been used, the writer clearly wrote “gave.”

Know all men by these presents that I James Franklin of the County of Surry & state of north carolina a Farmer; being Verry sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory thanks be to god. Calling unto mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make this my Last will and testament, my Estate whare with it hath pleased god to bless me with In this life: I gave demise[sic] and dispose of the same in the following manner. First, I gave[sic] and bequeath unto _____ my Dearly beloved wife⁸ the Tract of Land whare I now live to have and to hold During her widowhood and when she she is no Longer a widow, I gave and bequeath the above mentioned tract of Land to my too beloved sons William⁹ Frankin & Sherad¹⁰ Franklin to be eaqually Divided between the too. I also gave to my well beloved son Sherrad¹¹ Franktin a horse to be worth as much as either of the horses that I gave to my sones William Franklin or Berry Franklin. I also gave And bequeath unto my three Beloved Daughters Patsy Franklin Anne Franklin¹² and Mittee¹³ Franklin as much of my estate and of the same kind, as either of my Daughters Ruthy Franklin or Lucy Franklin had when they married, and the Remainder of my property to be appropriated to the use of my Famelly, and I dis[sic] disallow all other wills Testaments or bequeaths. Confirming this and no other to be my Last will and Testament in witness whereof I do Acknowledge the same this the 31 Day of October one thousand Eight hundred & Eighteen

	his
Test	James X Franklin
Thomas Nixon	his mark
John Marsh	William Franklin Executor

7. Spoken orally.
8. Ruth Lewis
9. Actually, “Wittiam” - the L’s are crossed.
10. One R.
11. Two R’s
12. This Ann Franklin appears to be the same one who married William Wilmouth per the Surry County bond of 21 Aug 1822 and the William Franklin, bondsman appears to be her brother.
13. Possibly Millee (Milley).

Will of Mildred Franklin of Surry County, North Carolina

Transcribed by Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. The following transcription is of the original Will on file at the North Carolina Archives, copy in possession of FFRU Editor. Reverse side: "Mrs. Franklins Will. Recorded Book 4, page 200." Mildred "Millie" Edwards married Meshack Franklin, 2 Feb 1802 in Surry County, North Carolina. She was the daughter of Gideon and Nancy Anna (Perkins) Edwards.

I Mildred Franklin the County of Surry & State of North Carolina being of Sound mind & memory but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence do make this my Last Will & Testament in manner as follows 1st That my Executor hereinafter named shall cause my body to be decently interred And pay all my debts Howsoever & to whomesover owing out of any money that may come into his hands as part of my estate. I give to my daughter Frances J. Franklin¹⁴ negro boy Dick & negro girl Hannah. I give to my Grand Daughter Mildred F. Wellborn negro Boy Wesley Said Boy to be left in the possession of my Son Jesse D. Franklin¹⁵ until said Mildred F. Wellborn becomes of age. I give to my Grand daughter Mary E. Moore negro boy Anderson said Boy to be left in the possession of my Son Jesse D. Franklin until the said Mary E. Moore becomes of age. My other property I give to my son Jesse D. Franklin. I have made this disposition of my Property uninfluenced by any thing like partiality, believing that my other children Gideon E. Franklin Ann P. Wellborn,¹⁶ Mary C. Moore¹⁷ Sarah H. Thurmond¹⁸ Columbus B. Franklin¹⁹ Martha E. Franklin²⁰ Mildred E. Hunt²¹ & Meeke C. Franklin²² have been sufficiently provided for Heretofore. I nominate & appoint my Son C. B. Franklin my Executor

Mildred Franklin (seal)

Signed and Sealed in our presence & declared by the Said Mildred Franklin to be her last will & Testament
Gideon Bryant Jurat
John M. Kapp

-
14. From FFRU Volume 3: Frances J. Franklin, born 1 May 1821, married David A. Abernathy, moved first to Mississippi 1851, then on to McKinney, Texas.
 15. *ibid*: Jesse Daniel Franklin, born 8 Mar 1815, presumably named for his famous uncle, married Amelia Thurmond (born 15 Dec 1819). He died at Sardis, Mississippi where he had moved in 1847; he had one child Mildred Edwards Franklin married Enoch B. Hunt settled in Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina and bore three children.
 16. *ibid*: Ann Perkins Franklin, born 25 Dec 1804, moved to Early Grove, Mississippi in 1842 and died there in 1884 in Early Grove, Marshall County, Mississippi; she was married to William Wilkes Wellborn in 1823. He was born 8 Nov 1799 in Wilkes County, North Carolina, and died about 1865.
 17. *ibid*: Mary Cleveland Franklin (born 1 Apr 1809) married Dr. Gabriel T. Moore and was the mother of Mary and Sallie Moore and two other children; she moved first to Georgia, but later died in 1885 at Sardis in Panola County, Mississippi.
 18. *ibid*: Sarah Hardin Franklin, born 29 May 1811, married Thomas Gwyn Thurmond; having first moved to Saulsburg, Tennessee, she died at Carpenteria in Santa Barbara County, California; she was the mother of five.
 19. *ibid*: "Columbus Bernard Franklin, born 23 Jun 1806 Edwardsville, Surry County; died at Early Grove 1866, moved to Fayette County, Tennessee in 1856. He married Ann Amelia Gwyn at Elkin in Surry County on 5 Dec 1843, was quite wealthy, and fathered eight children." Note that at this marriage Columbus was age 37. He had previously married on 26 Oct 1824 Rebecca Marriah/Marie? Wellborn (born 4 Nov 1801 in Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, North Carolina).
 20. *ibid*: Martha Elizabeth Franklin, born 10 Jun 1813, married her first cousin Hardin Perkins Franklin (son of Jesse Franklin) in 1837; she died in 1866, also at Early Grove, Mississippi where they had moved in 1849; they had five children.
 21. *ibid*: Mildred Edwards Franklin married Enoch B. Hunt settled in Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina and bore three children.
 22. *ibid*: Meeke Caroline Franklin, born 25 Jun 1822; died 1840 buried at the Edwards-Franklin House in Surry County.

Will of Charity C. Franklin, Surry County, North Carolina

Transcribed by Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. The following transcription is of the original Will on file at the North Carolina Archives, copy in possession of FFRU Editor. Reverse side: "Charity C. Franklin Will, Fees Due \$1.00 Recorded." Proved 2 Mar 1886. Estimated worth of estate: \$250.00. The closest match in the 1880 Census is:

1880 North Carolina, Surry County, Mount Airy Township, page 104A, HH 317/322:

Charita Franklin, 70f, mulatto, laborer, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Stephen Franklin, 15m, mulatto, laborer, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Caleb Franklin, 22m, mulatto, laborer, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC.

This "Charita" Franklin is listed as a 70 year old, thus born about 1810.

The above may or may not match with the record found in the 1870 Census, which is a clear match for the information found in the Will:

1870 North Carolina, Surry County, Hotell Township, page 298, HH 82/82:

Charity Franklin, 63f, white, keeping house, RE\$200/PP\$200, born NC; Absalom Waller, 71m, white, cooperer born SC; Arthusia Waller, 17f, mulatto, at home, born NC; Adam Waller, 10m, white, at home, born NC.

State of North Carolina

Surry County

I Charity C. Franklin begin weak in body but being of Sound Mind and of good memory and in view of the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death Do make & establish this my last will & testament. My will is first that all the land that I possess Shall after my death belong to my nephew Adam A. Waller

I further will that after my death that Adam A. Waller Shall have my mule my curtain beadstead and bead clothes that belong to it.

I further will that after my death that one of my other bead steads & bead clothing belonging to it & All of my wearing cloths shall belong to Arthusa Shival Spicer. I further will that as mutch as they can collect of the money that I put in the hands of Richard Gwyn Shall be equally divided between Adam A. Waller and Achabald Rigsby

I further will that the aforesaid Adam A. Waller is to stay with and take care of me while I live

I further will that all my other personal property not mentioned and willed Shall be equally divided between Adam A. Waller and Arthusa Shival Spicer. I further will that Adam A. Waller and Archabald Rigsby Shal be the Executours of this will.

In witness whereof I have herunto set my hand and seal on this the 31st day of August AD. 1881

her
Charity X C. Franklin
mark

Signed in the presence of

John A. Park

R. C. Hamby

See Record of Wills Pages 234-235

Will of Lee F. Franklin, Surry County, North Carolina

Transcribed by Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. The following transcription is of the original Will on file at the North Carolina Archives, copy in possession of FFRU Editor.

3.50 pd 1-16-53
North Carolina
Surry County

This is the last will and testament of Lee F. Franklin of Route #3 Mount Airy Surry County, North Carolina, and I hereby revoke and declare void all other Wills heretofore made by me and declare this to be my last will in words and figures as follows.

-1-

it is my will and desire that all my Just and lawful obligations be paid and I do expressly direct that my executor shall pay all my just, honest and Lawfully[sic] debts if there be any out of the proceeds of my Estate.

-2-

That after my debts or lawful debts are paid then all the residue of my Estate Both Real and Personal shall go to Shade M. Franklin my Nephew

I hereby nominate and apoint Shad[sic] M. Franklin as Executor.

in testimony whereof I Lee F. Franklin have hereto set my hand and seal to this my last will This the 21st day of Oct 1952

Seal
Lee F. Franklin

Witnessed by
Howard R. Anderson
Weldon Bryant
J. W. M. Kinney

Will of Median Franklin, Surry County, North Carolina

Transcribed by Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. The following transcription is of the original Will on file at the North Carolina Archives, copy in possession of FFRU Editor. Reverse side: "Median Franklin Will 1859, Will Book 5, page 56." Median or Midian Franklin was enumerated in the 1850 and 1860 Surry County Censuses, thus:

1850 North Carolina, Surry County, Hotel Township, page 327, HH 843/843

Algius Golden, 29m, farmer, RE\$660, born NC; Median Golden, 34f, born NC; James Golden, 10m, born NC; Daniel Golden, 7m, born NC; John Golden, 5m, born NC; Mary Golden, 2f, born NC; Midian Franklin, 64f, born NC.

1860 North Carolina, Surry County, Hotel Township, page 214 HH 437/437:

Meedy A. Golding, 42f, widow farmer, RE\$650/PP\$7,222, born NC; James Golding, 17m, born NC; Daniel Golding, 16m, born NC; J. V. Golding, 15m, born NC; M. S. Golding, 12f, born NC; Zeddie Golding, 9m, born NC; Meedy A. Franklin, 73f, born NC.

...so it appears that she was living in the household of her niece's daughter (as described in the will below) some ten years before her demise and that she was born in 1786. Beyond that there is little to ascertained from this record, and further information about her is not known to me at this time. - BJB, Editor.

I Median Franklin of the County of Surry and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and memory but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existince do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say

First that my exutor here in after named shall provide for my body a decent burial suitable to the wishes of my friends and relations and pay all funeral expences together with my Just debts however and to whome-soever owing out of the first money that may come into his hands as a part or parcel of my estate. I gave and

devise to my niece Median Walsh one cow and calf or the worth of one in money shortly after my death. I gave and devise to Mary S. Golding daughter of my niece Median Golding Mariam a little Girl about two years old. I gave and devise to my niece Median Wright now Golding and to her heirs the tract of land where I now live containing one hundred and thirty acres more or less bound as my deed calls for also the balance of my Slaves and their increase (to wit) Margaret Lucy Silvy Charles Allis Abram and Nelson all my stock of cattle sheep and hogs all my beds bed clothing Household and kitchen furniture all debts of all sorts all grain or provisions of any kind all the money after paying my debts all at my death.

And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my friend Richard Gwyn my lawful exutor to all intents and purposes to execute this my last will and testament according to the true intent and meaning of the same and every pact and clause of the same here by revoking and declaring utterly void all other wills and testaments by me hertofore made in witness where of I the said Median Franklin do hereunto set my hand and seal this the 17th day of June A.D. 1859

her
Median X Franklin (seal)
mark

Signed sealed published and declared by the testator for her last will and testament and by her request witnessed by us
Thommas Wicoxen
John Eldridge

State of North Carolina

Surry County Court May Term 1862

The execution of the foregoing last will and testament of Median Franklin deceased was duly proven in open Court by the oath of John Eldridge one of the subscribing witnesses thereto who proved the signing sealing and delivery of the same that he became a subscribing witness thereto in the presence and at the request of the testator and in the presence of the other subscribing witness thereto and it is ordered to be recorded and filed

H. C. Hampton CCC

Recorded Accordingly

Will of Governor Jesse Franklin, Surry County, North Carolina

Submitted by Lisa F Franklin.(lisafranklin2004@earthlink.net) and Ben Franklin, Editor. Source: Microfilm for *Surry County Will Book III*, filmed at the North Carolina State Archives. Microfilm at the Dallas Public Library, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas Additional copy found in Wills, volumes 1-3, 1771-1827, FHL Film #0019972

File at: <http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/nc/surry/wills/franklin166gw1.txt>

page 158. Written: 4 Apr 1823, recorded: Nov 1823

In the name of God amen I Jesse Franklin of the County of Surry and State of North Carolina Being of Sound mind and memory, do make Constitute and or dain this my last will and testament Revoking all others hertofore made. First it is my will and Desire that at my Decease my Body Shall be Decently Buried in a plain manner that all my Just Debts be punctually paid, then with respect to that portion of worldly goods with which it has pleased God to Bless me with I dispose of in the following manner tuching [touching] my landed Estate it is my will and Desire and I hereby Leave to my beloved wife Meekey Franklin During her natural life the upper part of that tract of land whereon I now live including my Dwelling Hous and other improvements from the forks of the Creek below the Black Smith Shop - the Creek to be the line from Hill to hill and the point of the hill South west on the Ridge to the line and the point of the northwest to continue a north westerly Course until it strikes? the Camp Creek near or at the Doubled(?)²³ ford. I furthermore leave

to her and at her Disposal forever four negroes to wit Joseph Wing also and Jesse with one feather bed and furniture with the future use[e] During her natural life all my household furniture Except Such as is herein Disposed off with the use and benefit of Such of my plantation to do as may be Deemed necessary for her use by my Executors then the remaining part of tract of land above mentioned including the mill I leave to my son Barnard to him and his heirs forever and at the Decease of my wife meekey Franklin I leave to my sons Hardin and Barnard jointly to them and their heirs forever all that tract of land to which I have [deeded?] to my beloved wife alife estate as aforesaid it my further will and I hereby leave to my sons James and Hardin my tract of land lying upon Elk River in the State of Tennessee to be Equally Divided Between them Respect being had to quantity and quality to them and their heirs forever. Having heretofore Given to my Daughters Sally and mary and to my son James Certain negroes and my Daughter Ann Certain negroes I now leave to my daughter Ann one negro boy Called Landon. I leave to my Son hardin three negroes (towit) to him and his heirs forever Reubin Nancy & Randal. To my son Barnard I leave three negroes to him and his heirs forever (To wit) Stephen Brice and Temperance and one Hundred & fifty Dollars To be paid him by Executors To my Daughter Elizabeth I leave four negroes Abraham Charles Rebecah and Bartlett(?) and to my Daughter Matilda I leave four negroes (Towit) Dolly Jeremiah Gilbert and Malinda and one hundred and fifty Dollars in cash then it is my further will and I hereby leave to each of my Children hardin Barnard Elizabeth and Matilda one feather bed and furniture It is my will and desire that my Pineville tract of land Shall be sold upon a credit of twelve months as also my waggon and family Carriage Blacksmith Tools Two Copper Stills Together with my Books and such of my stock of Cattle and Horses as my Executors shall judge for the best interest of my estate with Such negroes as are undisposed off and after paying off my Debts and Such Sums as are Directed by this my last will the proceeds of which to be added to Such Sums of money which I may otherwise leave and the whole amount to be Equally Divided among all my Children Share and Share alike if Living and if not Living To the heirs of Such as have Died and at the Decease of my wife Such part of my estate as may remain to be sold and the proceeds to be equally Divided as aforesaid. I hereby leave in charge of this my last will my wife Meekey Franklin Hardin P Franklin Barnard Franklin and Solomon Graves²⁴ in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 4th day of April 1823.

assigned Sealed and Delivered

in the presence of
attest
M Franklin
Joel Underwood

J Franklin {seal}

-
23. Checking GNIS, there currently is no named place in the county that matches this. Searching census from 1790-1830 reveals a possible match in 1830: Daniel Dandle. The spelling here could be “Dandele”, but to my eye it most closely resembles “Doudele”.
24. See the article about his son in this volume entitled “Biography: Hon. Jesse Franklin Graves”

Note that it is my will further that my Executors prove and deliver of my Estate to each of my Daughters Elizabeth and Matilda one horse to each of them that is worth in their Judgement Seventy Dollars and that this be annexed to and made a part of my will made and ordain at the same time as the Body of my will there omitted Given under my hand and seal. Done in the presents of J Franklin

attest
M Franklin
Joel Underwood

State of North Carolina Surry County November Session AD 1823 Meshach Franklin one of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing last Will & Testament, made oath that he saw the said Jesse Franklin, sign publish & declare the same to be his last Will & Testament that he was of sound & disposing mind & memory & at the same time he saw Joel Underwood sign the same as witness and therefore it was ordered to be recorded. Recorded accordingly. R J Williams C C

Will of Meshack Franklin of Surry County, North Carolina

Transcribed by Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. The following transcription is of the original Will on file at the North Carolina Archives, copy in possession of FFRU Editor. Reverse side: "M. Franklin Will Records Will Book 4 Page 161." Spellings are original and additions made by me are in [square brackets].

This Meshack Franklin was born Orange County, 17 Sep 1773,²⁵ and served as Councilor of State (1824-35) of North Carolina. This line has been mention previously in FFRU, Volume 3, article entitled "Meshack and Mildred (Edwards) Franklin" Caution should be exercised in researching this line. Many researchers have mixed up the several Meshack Franklins who lived in the area at the time. This is the earliest one, son of Bernard, whose will is found elsewhere in this volume.

I Meshack Franklin of the County Surry and the State of North Carolina being of sound mind and memory but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existince, do make and declare this my last will and Testament in manner and Form following. First that my Executors (hereinafter named) shall provide for my boddy a decent burial and pay all funeral expences together with my Just debts howsoever and to whomsoever owing, out of the moneys that may first come into their hands as a part or parcel of my estate

I give and devise to my wife Mildred Franklin that part of the tract of land whereon I now live above the Cross fence and lying on the South side of the River including my Dwelling house and all out houses To have and to hold to her the said Mildred Franklin for and during the term of their natural life. I also give to my wife Mildred Franklin to dispose of as she may think proper Negro man Kinston his wife Aly (Aby?) and their children also one gray horse now six years old two cows and calves twelve had[sic] of sheep and twelve head of hogs her choice in all the aforesaid stock one Bed and furniture all the domestic fowl and poultry and one years provisions for herself and family, her press and one dozen chairs. I give to me eldest son Gideon E. Franklin the sum of twenty five dollars to be paid by my Executors within two years from the time of my death, out of any moneys belonging to my estate not otherwise disposed of which sum together with the advancements he had of me previous to his marriage, will make him a fair and equitable portion according to the value of my estate. I give to my daughters Ann P. Wellborn Mary C. Moore Sarah H. Thurmond Martha E. Franklin and Mildred E. Hunt Twenty dollars each to be paid by the Executors in the same manner as the last bequest and is mad under the same views in reference to former advancements.

25. Or 1772, according to *Biographical Dictionary of the United States Congress 1774-1989*, Bicentennial Edition (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1989), page 1024.

I give to my daughter Frances J. Franklin Negro Man Lewis and Delsy his wife with their youngest child Jack, also Negro man Nelson and Negro woman Ann and child Sarah. I also leave to my daughter Frances J. Franklin one Sorrel horse now three years old her saddle and bridle, one cow and calf, one Bureau worth twenty dollars and Two beds and Furniture. I give to my daughter Meekey Caroline Franklin Negro woman Nicy negro Boy Hubert and Negro girl Emma, also I leave to my daughter Meekey C. Franklin one Bay Filly now two years old one cow and calf, Two beds and furniture and a side saddle and Bridle worth fifteen dollars

I give and bequeath to my son Columbus Bernard Franklin all my lands lying below the Cross Fence (above named) beginning at my Mill and running along said fence a supposed Northeast course to the woods, Crossing the River at a point of Rocks Thence along my outside fence to the second little Branch Thence up said Branch a supposed North east course to my Back line and below a line from my Mill passing along the main Ridge a supposed south west Course to my other back line. Excepting two tracts known as the Burrows and Ambrose tracts. Also I give to my son Columbus B. Franklin three Negro men Jerry Jacob and Dick, two beds and Furniture and one Cow and Calf

I will to my son Jesse Daniel Franklin all my lands above the Cross Fence before mentioned including the Mill together with that willed to my Wife at her death. I also leave to my son Jesse D. Franklin two negro men James and Henry Two beds and Furniture One Cow and Calf and two small steers for the yoke his choice. I give to my grandson Meshack Franklin Moore Negro boy Warren To my grandson Meshack Franklin Hunt I give negro boy Lewis I give to my grandson Jesse Meshack Franklin (son of H P Franklin) negro man Charles. I Loan to my daughter Ann P. Wellborn negro man Bartlet and negro woman Jenny [Jurny?], to aid her in raising her family subject to the control of my Executors.

I leave it to the choice of my Negro Man Philip whither he will be loaned to my daughter Ann P Wellborn on the same conditions as the loan above or go to my daughter Sarah H. Thurmond who by paying to Ann P Wellborn Four Hundred dollars shall have a perfect right to the Negro Man (Philip) My other property consisting of of[sic] two tracts of Land (the Burrows & Ambrose Tracts) of Horses Cattle Sheep and Hogs Two Stills Plantation Tools &c I direct to be sold on a credit of twelve months to the highest bidder and the proseeds divided equally amongst my wife and Children Share and Share alike

Lastly I appoint my wife Mildred Franklin my executrix and my [sons] Columbus B. Franklin & Jesse D. Franklin my Executors

In witness whereof I do hereunto set my hand and seal this the 4th day of Dec AD 1839

M. Franklin (Seal)

Signed and declared by the said Meshack Franklin to be his last will and Testament We at his request have subscribed our names as witnesses there to

Test

Micajah Oglesby

Jos.[Jas?] Howard

Will of Nancy Franklin of Surry County, North Carolina

Transcribed by Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. The following transcription is of the original Will on file at the North Carolina Archives, copy in possession of FFRU Editor. Unlike many of the wills that I have, I only asked for the will itself to be copied in this instance and this will was typewritten.

I, Nancy Franklin being of sound mind and considering my earthly esistence do make and declare this my last will and testament in the manner and form following.

1- It is my will and desire that my body be given a decent burial in keeping with the wishes of my executor hereinafter mentioned.

2- It is my will and desire that my just and honest debts together with the cost of probating this my will be paid as soon after my decease as is possible.

3- It is my will and desire after the above has been carried out that all my real and personal property be give to Gabe Franklin for his taking care of me during my last days on this earth.

4- It is my will and desire that Gabe Franklin be my executor of this my last will and testament to serve without bond.

5- It is also my will that all this above be carried out and completed within one year from date of my death.

6- In testimony hereof I hereunto set my hand and affix my seal to this my last will and testament this the 1st day of March, 1937.

her
Nancy X Franklin Seal
mark

We James Rawley and Willie Rawley being asked by the above menttoned Nancy Franklin to witness her will as shown above, do hereby certify that we have this day witnessed this her last will and testament, first having it read aloud to her and each of us, and each of us satisfied that she knows all that there is in it.

James Rawley
Mt. Airy N.C.

Willie Rawley
Mt. Airy N.C.

Will of A. V. Franklin of Surry Couny, North Carolina

Transcribed by Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. The following transcription is of the original Will on file at the North Carolina Archives, copy in possession of FFRU Editor. Unlike many of the wills that I have, I only asked for the will itself to be copied in this instance and this will was typewritten.

1930 North Carolina, Surry County, Elkin, ED6, page 6A, HH 98/101

Richard G. Franklin, head, 83m, 30 years old at first marriage, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; A. Victoria Franklin, wife, 65f, 19 years old at first marriage, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Sarah E. Franklin, daughter, 40f, bookkeeper - wholesale grocery store, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Richard G. Franklin, Jr., son, 30m, farmer - truck farm, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC. Owns home worth \$12,000. Address: West Main Street.

1920 North Carolina, Surry County, Elkin, ED251, page 10A, HH 188/217

Richard G. Franklin, head, 71m, farmer - truck farm, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Annie V. Franklin, wife, 54f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Jessie H. Franklin, son, 36m, laborer - box plant, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Sarah E. Franklin, daughter, 29f, bookkeeper - furniture factory, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Richard G. Franklin, son, 21m, laborer - farm, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC. Address: West Main Street.

From Joe Payne <johnthepayne@yahoo.com> "Richard Gwyn Franklin, born about 1850, who married Annie Victoria Harris. He was the son of Columbus Bernard Franklin and Anne Amelia Gwyn, and the grandson of Meshach and Milly (Edwards) Franklin."

See also *Franklin Fireplace* pages 420-421.

From *The genealogy of the Cleveland and Cleaveland families*, by Edmund James Cleveland, Case, Lockwood & Brainard Comapny: Hartford, CT; Copyright 1899, pages 2,982, Vol 3, page 2,172:

Richard Gwyn Franklin (Columbus Bernard Franklin, Meshach Franklin) was born 9 Apr 1850 in Elkin, North Carolina. He married Annie Victoria Harris on 7 Sep 1882 in Wilkes County, North Carolina. She was born 15 Mar 1864 near Vox Post Office, Wilkes County, North Carolina, a daughter of Fletcher Asbury and Sarah Henry (Moore) Harris.

Children (born Elkin, Surry County, North Carolina):

Jesse Harris Franklin born 14 Aug 1883;

Columbus Bernard Franklin born 13 Mar 1885.

Hon. Richard Gwyn Franklin graduated from Trinity College, Randolph County, North Carolina, 1868, with first honors; remained on his father's farm at Early Grove, Marshall County, Mississippi, to 1865, where he was a merchant one year with W. H. Bailey. He went to California in the fall of 1868, engaged in stock raising until 1880; held several high county offices of Santa Barbara County, California. Returned to Elkin, in 1880, purchased his grandfather Gwyn's old homestead. In 1882 he was unanimously nominated High Sheriff for Surry County, but declined to run. In Nov 1884 he was elected State Senator from 33d District (Surry and Yadkin counties). Is a practical civil engineer and surveyor, chief engineer of Railroad and farmer. Residence: Elkin, 1885.

[Note: *Cleveland Genealogy* was copyrighted in 1899 and this information was gathered in 1885, so this is not a list does not include children born after this time. - BJJ

NORTH CAROLINA
SURRY COUNTY

This is the last will of A. V. Franklin of Surry County, North Carolina, and I hereby revoke all wills heretofore made by me.

Item I. I direct my executors to pay my just debts, including my funeral expenses, out of the first moneys coming into their hand belonging to my estate.

Item II. I will and devise to my son, Richard G. Franklin, Jr. and my daughter Mary Franklin McNeely, my home place, situated on the North side of West Main Street in the Town of Elkin, Surry County, North Carolina, and bounded on the East by the land of Eugene Spainhour and on the West by the lands of Claude Farrell and Margaret Harris Farrell, and extending back to a branch; on this parcel of land is situated my dwelling house and which is known as the Franklin home place. The property to be held jointly by these two devisees. It is my will and desire that Mary Franklin McNeely shall advise with the said Richard G. Franklin, Jr., in preserving and taking care of said property and in furnishing the said Richard G. Franklin, Jr., a place which to live.

Item III. I will, devise and bequeath all the remainder of my property, real, personal or mixed, where ever situated, to my children, C. B. Franklin, Annie Moore Trivette, Mary Franklin McNeely and Richard G. Franklin, Jr., share and share alike.

Item IV. I nominate and appoint my daughter, Mary Franklin McNeely, and my grandson, John M. Franklin, to be the executors of my will and I authorize these executors to sell any real estate or personal property included in Item III. of this will, without obtaining an order of confirmation of Court, provided the executors find it necessary to make such a sale in order to pay any of my debts, or my funeral expenses mentioned in Item I., and as compensation for their services, my executors shall receive the usual commissions allowed by law.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this the 28th day of October, 1939

A.V. Franklin (seal)

Signed by the said Testatrix, A. V. Franklin, as her last will, in the presence of us, who at her request and in her presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

Earl C. James

Jane Daub

Will of Ailsey D. Franklin of Surry County, North Carolina

Transcribed by Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. The following transcription is of the original Will on file at the North Carolina Archives, copy in possession of FFRU Editor. Reverse side: "Ailsey D. Franklin Will fee paid."

1850 North Carolina, Surry County, Hotel District, page 331, HHH 900/900:

Lucinda Franklin, 40f, RE\$300, born NC; Ailsey Franklin, 50f, born NC.

Ailsey Franklin was born about 1800. Lucinda Franklin, her sister was born about 1810. Lucinda is listed as owning 7 slaves in the 1850 slave schedule, but Ailsey is not listed with any. It is possible that Ailsey's man "Bird" listed in the will was listed among Lucinda's slaves, which would only match the 35 year old male mulatto.

Assuming that he is still alive, the closest match to the information in the 1870 Census in Surry County is Bird Adams, age 55, black.

I Ailsey D. Franklin of the County of Surry and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and memory but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence do make this my last will and testament in the manner and form following (towit) First that my exutor (hereafter mentioned) shall provide for my body a decent burial suitable to the wishes of my friends and relations and pay all funeral expenses together with my Just debts howsoever and to whome soever owing out of the proceedes of my estate. I gave and devise to my beloved sister Cindy Franklin my negro man Bird all my stock concisting of cattle and one hog all my clothing bed and bed clothing wheels with all Kitchen furniture all debts due me by note or notes on account.

And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my sister Cinday Franklin my lawful exut to all intents and purposes to execute this my last will and testament according to the true intent and meaning of the same every part and clause thereof hereby revocing and declaring utterly void all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made in testimony whereof I the said Ailsey D. Franklin do here unto set my hand and seal this the 18th day of June A.D. 1851

her
Ailsey X D. Franklin (seal)
mark

Witness

Richard Gwyn

his

Absolom X D. Waller

mark

A paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Ailsey Franklin was produced in open court and offered for probate and was duly proven by the oath of Absolom Waller one of the subscribing witnesses there to and ordered by the the[sic] Court to be filed with the Clerk of the Court until the other subscribing Richard Gwyn is brought forward to complete the probate.

Will of Peter Franklin of Gates County, North Carolina

Transcribed by Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. The following transcription is of the original Will on file at the North Carolina Archives, copy in possession of FFRU Editor.

1880 North Carolina, Gates County, Holly Grove, ED 58, page 197C, HH 243/243:

William Franklin, head, 35m, farmer, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Christine A. Franklin, wife, 31f, keeping house, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Oliva Franklin, daughter, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Leroy Franklin, son, 6m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC.

1880 North Carolina, Gates County, Holly Grove, ED 58, page 197C, HH 244/244:

Peter Franklin, head, 60m, farmer, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Catherine Franklin, wife, 50f, keeping house, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Scott Franklin, son, 24m, laborer, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Virginia Franklin, daughter, 23f, at home, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC.

1880 North Carolina, Gates County, Holly Grove, ED 58, page 197C, HH 245/245:

Benjamin Franklin, head, 31m, farmer, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Martha E. Franklin, wife, 25f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Cora May Franklin, daughter, 4f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Catherine E. Franklin, daughter, 2f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Lela Franklin, daughter, 1f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC.

State of North Carolina

Gates County

I Peter Franklin of the County and State aforesaid, being of sound mind and memory, but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form follering that is to say:-

First That my executor(Benj. Franklin my son) shall provide for my body a decent burial, out of my Chattle estate that I now hold or have in han and after he shall have paid all of my expences. I then want the balance of my Chattle estate sold and the procedes equally divided between my daughter Lucie A. Deal's Children, and my daughter Virginia now living and lastly, I do hereby appoint my son Benj. Franklin my lawful executor to all intents and purposes to execute this my last will and testament, according to the intent and meaning of the same, and every part and clause thereof, hereby revoking and declaring utterly void all other wills made by me of my Chattle.

In witness whereof I the said Peter Franklin do hereunto set my hand and seal this the [23rd day of August] A.D. 1890

his
Peter X Franklin (seal)
mark

(witness) Million Franklin

his

(witness) Jordan X Winslow

mark

Will of Jonas Franklin, Gates County, North Carolina

Transcribed by Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. The following transcription is of the original Will on file at the North Carolina Archives, copy in possession of FFRU Editor. There were two copies of the will in the folder, one was somewhat more difficult to read, with ink bleedthroughs and marks throughout. Reverse side: "Jonas Franklin Will Record and Examined. Cert. May Court 1826. Proved & the excr. qualified. Entered."

1800 North Carolina, Gates County, page 266:
Jonas Franklin 1m 16/26; no females.

War of 1812 Muster Rolls: First Regiment, Gates County: Jonas Franklin, 1st Corporal.

I Jonas Franklin of Gates County and State of North Carolina do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following Viz.

I give and bequeath to my dear beloved wife Barshaba Franklin the part of my tract of land from a hickory tree standing on the main road all lying on the house side, the line to run from the s^d hickory tree an east and west course through the land also one negro man named Moses one negro man named Gilbert and one negro woman named Eady & one negro Girl named Fanny endureing her life or widowhood, I give and bequeath to my son Benjamin Franklin all my land and mill seat that I am now in possession of and if he dies without heir the a^d land to go to my son Daniel Franklin and I also give and bequeath unto my son Benjamin Franklin one negro man Stephen one negro boy Tom and my blacksmith tools. I give and bequeath to my daughter Jane one negro girl named Tildy one negro boy named Denisey and one feather bed and furniture. I give and bequeath to my daughter Eliza Franklin one negro girl named Cause and one feather bed and furniture. I give and bequeath to my son Daniel Franklin one negro boy named Isaac I give and bequeath to my son Owen Franklin one negro boy named Willis. I give and bequeath to my son Nathan Franklin one negro boy named Harry. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Lucretia one negro girl named Lydia. It is my will and desire that the ballance of my negros and other property not willed to be sold and equally divided among all my lawful heirs except my son Benjamin Franklin.

I nominate constitute and appoint my beloved brother Dan^l Franklin sole Executor of this my last will and testament hereby revoking all other and former wills by me at any time heretofore made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 3rd of October in the year of our Load 1823

his
James ---- Franklin
mark

Signed sealed published and declared by the said testator Jonas Franklin, as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who have subscribed our names as witnesses here in the presence of the said testator.

I[xxxx?] Brinkley (Jurat)

his
Lewis X Jones
mark

James Mathews

Will of Jason Franklin, Gates County, North Carolina

Transcribed by Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. The following transcription is of the original Will on file at the North Carolina Archives, copy in possession of FFRU Editor.

In the name of God Amen, I Jason Franklin, of the County of Gates and state of North Carolina do this first day of March in the year of our Lord 1839 make and publish this my last Will & Testament in manner and form following (viz.)

First. I give unto my well beloved wife Chrissy Franklin during her natural life the land & plantation whereon I now live, One negro Woman named hannah & her two Children Harry and Margaret, & one negro Woman named Patience, also all the provisions, tools, plantation untinsils[sic] House hold & kitchen furniture & stock of every kind, that I may leave at my death.

Second. I give unto my son Peter Franklin the Land & Plantation that I purchased of Thos. W. Ballard, containing two Hundred Acres, also one negro man named Gates & one negro Girl named Mirrium, should my son Peter die without lawful heir begotten of his body my will & desire is that the land & negroes given him should be equally divided between my other two sons, Jason & Simon Franklin

Third. I give unto my son Jason Franklin, the Land and Plantation whereon I now live also negro Woman Hannah & her two Children, Harry & Margaret & negro Woman Patience, after the death of my Wife Chrissy Franklin. Should my son Jason die without heir begotten of his body, my Will and desire is that all the property given him, should be equally divided between my other two sons Peter & Simon Franklin.

Fourth. I give unto my son Simon Franklin the Land & Plantation that I bot of Henry Brinkley, part of it lying in the State of Virginia, also all the land I own in Virginia adjoining the Land of James Knight & others, known by the name of the Arnold Tract, also one Negro Woman named Thuley one negro boy named John, one boy named Burwell, one girl named Fanny and one old Woman named Lydia, also all my Black Smith Tools. Should my son Simon Franklin die without lawful heir begotten of his Body, my Will & desire is that all the property given him should be equally divided between my other two sons, Peter & Jason Franklin

Fifth. I give unto my two Grand Children Barsha Matthias, the other one an infant without any name that I know of, they being Children of my daughter Nancy Matthias, One Bed & Furniture, One Cow & Calf and one negro Woman named Charlotte. The above property is now in possession of my daughter Nancy Matthias.

Sixth. My Will & desire is that all the property of every kind, loaned to my wife that I have not before given away after her death shall be equally divided between my Three sons, Peter Jason and Simon Franklin

Seventh. I nominate & appoint John C. Gordon Executor of this my last Will & Testament. In witness whereof I Jason Franklin the Testator, have hereunto set my hand & seal the day and date above written.

his

Jason X Franklin (seal)

mark

Signed sealed published & declared in the presence of us.

Demsey Vann (Jurat)

Joseph Matthias (Jurat)

Will of John Franklin of Burke County, North Carolina

Transcribed by Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. The following transcription is of the original Will on file at the North Carolina Archives, copy in possession of FFRU Editor. The Will of John Franklin, Sr., of Burke County has previously been published in FFRU (Volume 41). However, he was not the only John Franklin of Burke County, and there were actually two John Franklins who left wills, the first, John Franklin Sr, left a will written 4 Jun 1813. The second John Franklin will in Burke County was written 16 Feb 1827, which is the will found here. Reverse side: "John Franklin Will Oct 1837 Patrick Hennessee Thos Sparkes Wit. Recorded, Ex. qualified Oct 1837." This testator is sometimes known as "John Franklin, Jr.," however, he did not call himself that in this will. He was born in 1760 in Fort Stump, Virginia; died 30 Sep 1837 in Burke County, North Carolina and was buried Connelly Springs, Morganton, Burke County, North Carolina. He was the son of John Franklin, Sr. and Pheobe (Parker) Franklin. As explained in the following will, he married twice. He married 1) Mary "Polly" Erwin on 20 Aug 1797. Seven children of this union are listed in the will. He married 2) Nancy Wallace on 12 Jul 1817. Four children of this union are listed in the will. For a more detailed treatment of John Franklin, Jr.'s lineage, see FFRU Volume 6.

In the name of God Amen, I John Franklin of the County of Burke and State of North Carolina, do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following: First I resign my Soul unto the hands of Almighty God, who gave it me, hoping and believing in a remission of my Sins, by the Merits and Mediation of Jesus Christ; And my body I commit to the Earth to be buried at the discretion of my Executor herein after named; And my worldly Estate I give and devise as follows:

First it is my desire and request that all my Just debts be paid out of my Chattle property or Common Stock.

Secondly I will and devise to my beloved Wife Nancy, one third part of all my lands and Tenements includind[sic] the Dwelling house wherein I reside and all the Out buildings to have and to hold the same during her natural life or Widow hood and In case She Should again Marry then it is my desire that She be dispossessed of the Same.

Thirdly I will and devise and give to my four Sons that I have by my present (viz) Abraham, John, Levi, and Samuel all my lands that I possess in the County and State aforesaid to be equally divided among them the said Abraham, John, Levi, and Samuel, So Soon as my oldest Son Shall arrive to the age of Twenty One Years to have and to hold the Said Land and Tenements to them and their heirs and assigns for ever and if any one or more of my fours sons, Abraham, John, Levi and Samuel should decease without heirs it is my desire that their portion of the Said Land be equally divided among those that are Living, the same at all times to remain and be subject to the dower as above bequeathed to my wife.

Fourthly It is my desire and request that my Executor make out of the Chattle property the following Legacys in money and pay the same over to my Children that I had by my first Wife that is to Say to my oldest son Westley I give and bequeath the sum of Ten Shillings, also I give and bequeath to my daughter Cynthia Wenkler the Sum of Ten Shillings. I also give and and [sic] bequeath to my son David the Sum of Ten Shillings. Also I give to my Daughter Nancy Stone the sum of Ten Shillings, also I give to my son Benjamin Ten Shillings. Also I give to my Daughter Pheobe Errin Ten Shillings. Also I give to my son Harmon Ten Shillings. And Also to my son Anderson the Som of Ten Shillings. All of which Legacy it is my desire that my Executor collect out of my estate and and [sic] pay the same over to them the Eight Legatees last named.

And fifthly I give and bequeath to my Daughter Peggy Two Cows and Calves Two beds and furniture, and all the the[sic] Geese.

Sixthly I will and desire that my Executors Sell a Sufficiency of my Cattle and other Stock to pay for the Education of my Children that I have by my last wife or at Least to sell a Sufficiency, of said Estate to defray the Expense of their schooling for one year.

I also further Will and give to my wife Nancy three Bee hives and all the hogs and Cattle not before disposed off, together with the cupboard and Kitchen furniture all of which is to remain in her possession for the common Support of the family, and at her death or Marriage to be by my Executors sold and the proceeds of the Same to be Equally divided between my five Children, Abraham, John, Levi, Samuel and Peggy.

It is my desire and intention that the Legacy bequeathed and given to my wife Nancy is to be taken and received by her in place of dower and it is also my will that my Children be raised and and [sic] Boarded by my wife out out[sic] of the property given and bequeathed to her and for their Estates not to be Taxed with any Expense by her for their boarding and Cloathing.

And I will that my Executor have the sole and intire management of my children as respects their Education.

Last and finally I appoint my Trusty friend John Sudderth my Executor to this my Last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal this the Sixteenth day of February 1827

John Franklin (Seal)[scrawled signature almost illegible]

Signed sealed published and declared by the Testator for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who at his request and in his presence, and in the presence of each other, have subscribed our names as Witnesses thereto

Patrick P. Henners[Hennesse?], Jurat

his

John S. X Sparkes, Jurat

mark

Franklins in Happy Valley, history and genealogy

From: *Happy Valley, history and genealogy [of the Yadkin River Valley]* by Thomas Felix Hickerson (1882-1968)

Published: Chapel Hill, N.C.; c1940; 306 pages

page 20??

Franklin

The first authentic traces of the name Frankland, an old established line of nobility, date back to 1589. Later the name became Franklin.

Lawrence Franklin (born 1700) lived in Albemarle County, Virginia. His son Bernard Franklin (1731-1828) moved to Orange County, Virginia, and married Mary Cleveland, sister of Benjamin Cleveland, hero of King's Mountain. Their children were: (1) Jeremiah (born 1754); (2) Bernard; (3) Jesse (1760- 1823) married Meeky Perkins of Rockbridge County, Virginia; (4) Betty; (5) Abner; (6) Shadrach married Judith Taliaferro; (7) Mary (born 1771) married Gen. Solomon Graves, parents of Judge J. F. Graves of Mt Airy, North Carolina; (8) Meshach (born 1773), Councilor of State (1824-35), married Mildred Edwards; (9) Abednego (born 1776).

Governor Jesse Franklin (1760-1823)

At the age of 17 Jesse Franklin volunteered in the Continental service and held a Lieutenant's Commission in Washington's army. When his term of enlistment expired, he returned to his father's home in Orange County, Virginia. Before the outbreak of the Revolution, Bernard Franklin (father of Jesse) had determined to remove to the fertile lands of North Carolina, as several of his neighbors including Ben Cleveland had done. In 1778 he sent Jesse, who had just come home from the army, to find lands suitable for the settlement. Jesse selected a valley near the headwaters of Mitchell's River, Surry County. This homestead of the family (abandoned years ago) became well known as a center of patriotism and honor, culture and refinement.

Soon Jesse joined his Uncle Ben Cleveland's forces in making war against the bands of plundering Tories roving that part of the country. In the Battle of King's Mountain, he served as adjutant to his uncle Ben Cleveland and was in the very thickest of the contest. Quoting from a manuscript of General William Lenoir, written in 1820, "Before the battle, Adjutant Franklin, now Governor of North Carolina, Capt. Robert Cleveland, and myself agreed to stand together and support each other; but at the beginning of the battle enthusiastic zeal caused us all to separate. Each being anxious to effect the grand object, no one appeared to regard his own personal safety." We next find Jesse Franklin at the Battle of Guilford Court House in 1781. Here he was one of the last to leave the field.

After the war, Jesse Franklin settled in Wilkes and represented this county in the legislature for nine years until 1793 when he removed to Surry County. Was a member of Congress for two years and in 1805 became U. S. Senator. In 1820 he was elected Governor of North Carolina.

He was a man of strong personality, of few words, of unusual discretion and sound judgment.

Descendants of Meshach and Mildred Edwards Franklin

Children: (1) Martha Franklin married Hardin Franklin; (2) Gideon E. Franklin married Nancy Hughes of Surry County; (3) Ann Perkins Franklin; (4) Columbus Bernard Franklin married Ann Amelia Gwyn (1821-1859); (5) Mary Cleveland Franklin married Dr. Moore; (6) Jesse D. Franklin (born 1815) married Amelia Thurmond; (7) Meckie Franklin; (8) Frances Franklin; (9) Abednego Franklin; (10) Sarah Franklin married Thomas Gwyn Thurmond (1811-1853) of Tennessee.

Descendants of Gideon E. Franklin

Children of Gideon E. Franklin (1855-1935) and Nancy Hughes were: Columbus Franklin married Ellen Thurmond; Jesse D. Franklin married 1869, Belle O. Oglesby; John Franklin.

Children of Jesse D. Franklin and Belle O. Oglesby, Carpinteria, California, were: Gideon Albert Franklin (1870-1927) married Daisy Wiswel; Jesse O. Franklin married Anna B. Franklin.

Children of Gideon Albert Franklin and Daisy Wiswel Franklin: Altharetta Belle Franklin married John Kerr Miller; Geraldine Franklin married Andrew Crocker Dunlap, parents of Andrew Crocker Dunlap, Jr., and Albert Franklin Dunlap; Josephine Franklin married John Rhodes Quarles, parents of Barbara Quarles, Elizabeth Quarles, and John Rhodes Quarles, Jr.

The Franklins of Carpinteria

About 64 years ago Jesse D. Franklin and the five children of Columbus Bernard Franklin and Ann Amelia Gwyn Franklin, viz., Meshack, Sallie, Mildred Edwards, Gideon, and Columbus Bernard, moved to the Pacific coast and settled on ranches in and around Carpinteria, California. Among the other families joining this pioneering community were those of Gideon and J. Richard Thurmond, relatives of the Franklins, and the Bailards with whom they intermarried.

Life here in the early days was totally different and perhaps more strenuous than these people had been accustomed to in the East but through courage, industry, and ingenuity a large measure of success came to all. Their descendants are now numerous among the citizens of substance and influence in this valley terminating on the Pacific Ocean where the climate is uniformly mild and delightful throughout the year.

The late Gideon Franklin (1833-1935) took pride in his election as poet laureate of Carpinteria. The honor was well deserved. In addition to his poetical inclinations he possessed a keen sense of humor and a wealth of anecdotes that were readily at his command for any appropriate occasion.

C. B. Franklin — "Uncle Bern" as he is known affectionately to his legion of friends in the Carpinteria Valley still resides there in vigorous health at the ripe old age of 83 years, having lived on the same farm for 64 years. Extracts from an interview with C. B. Franklin published by the Santa Barbara News-Press in 1939 are as follows:

I am now farming 350 acres. Of that total I have 175 acres in trees. When we began operations here I

tried almonds for six years but they didn't pay enough. Next I tried olives, The first crop cost \$16 a ton and were sold for only \$20 a ton, so I soon got rid of the olives. After that I planted walnuts — 150 acres of them. I stayed with walnuts for 20 years. I now have 12 left of the trees I planted in 1877. They're still bearing. Twelve years ago I pulled out the walnuts and planted lemons and despite everything they say — about diversified farming and all that — I can't see how we can do much better than to continue growing lemons. My December fruit brought 78 cents a box, and it is a poor orchard that wouldn't net 500 picking boxes to the acre. If I have good fruit, I don't care who's running the governments I know it will sell, he added.

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VI. Amelia Thurmond married Jesse Franklin.

Child:

1. Mollie Franklin married 1st Will Gordon; 2nd Dr. David Dunlap, Belmont, Miss.

Children:

- (1) Hugh Dunlap (dec'd);
- (2) Thomas Dunlap (dec'd).

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Table 50

Descendants of Richard Gwyn (1796-1881) and Elizabeth Martin Hunt (1801-1885) daughter of Daniel Hunt and Nancy Jones, who were married in 1820. Lived at "Cedar Point," Elkin, North Carolina. He was a man of substance and great influence in his community—devout, kind, generous, and progressive.

Children:

I. Ann Amelia Gwyn (1821-1859) married 1842, Columbus Bernard Franklin (died 1865).

Children:

1. James Gwyn Franklin (1842-1862).
2. Meshach Abednego Franklin (1845-1886) married 1870, Nannie B. Dickenson (born 1850) of Glade Springs, Virginia. Moved to Carpinteria, California.

Children:

- (1.) Grace Eugenia Franklin married 1899, George M. Cravens, Carpinteria, California.

Children:

- a. Ellis Franklin Cravens married Helen Anderson.

Child:

- (a.) Barbara Anne Cravens.

- b. Lenoir B. Cravens married 1924, Charles B. Farley.

Child:

- (a.) Charlotte Ann Farley.

c. Marshall Cravens;

d. Kendrick Cravens;

e. Marylyn Cravens.

- (2.) Ernest Meshach Franklin (1876-1939) married Edna Peterson.

Child:

- a. Jesse Franklin.

- (3.) Bernard B. Franklin;

- (4.) Ellen Franklin;

- (5.) Mary Elizabeth Franklin.

3. Elizabeth Hunt Franklin (1846-1852).

4. Richard Gwyn Franklin (1848-1930) married Annie Victoria Harris, Elkin, North Carolina.

Children:

- (1.) Jesse Franklin (1883-1920);

- (2.) Columbus B. Franklin married 1908, Sallie Martin.

- Children:
 - a. John Franklin married Annie Laura Mastin.
 - Child:
 - (a) Ann Victoria Franklin.
 - b. Gwyn Franklin.
- (3.) Annie Moore Franklin married 1909, Thomas Trivette.
 - Children:
 - a. Thomas Trivette married 1937, Nellie Hooser;
 - b. Frank Trivette.
- (4.) Sarah E. Franklin (1889-1937).
- (5.) Mary H. Franklin married 1919, Fred McNeely (died 1932).
 - Children:
 - a. Richard Franklin McNeely (1924-1926);
 - b. Elizabeth Ann McNeely.
- (6.) Richard G. Franklin.
- 5. Sallie F. Franklin (1851-1906) Fred Foard.
 - Child:
 - (1.) Robert Foard. Living in Carpinteria, California.
- 6. Mildred Edwards Franklin (1853-1928) married A. A. Oglesby. Lived at Carpinteria, California.
 - Children:
 - (1.) Anna Bell Oglesby married Joseph Moore.
 - Children:
 - a. Joseph Moore;
 - b. Joan Franklin Moore.
 - (2.) Pearl Oglesby married Max Young.
 - Children:
 - a. Mildred Young;
 - b. John Young.
- 7. Gideon Edwards Franklin (1855-1935) married Ann Amelia Gwyn (1863-1922).
 - Child:
 - (1.) Mary Gwyn Franklin, Carpinteria, California.
- 8. Columbus Bernard Franklin married Theresa Banard, Carpinteria, California.
 - Children:
 - (1.) K. Bernice Franklin married Archie Wynne Horton.
 - Child:
 - a. William Franklin Horton.
 - (2.) Ballard Franklin married Margo Sheppa.
 - Children:
 - a. Nancy Franklin;
 - b. Jane Franklin.
 - (3.) Betty Franklin.

Gideon Edwards Franklin

Gideon Edwards Franklin was born 28 Sep 1803 in Surry County, North Carolina, was the son of Meshack Franklin and Mildred (Edwards) Franklin.

He married 1) Sally Bowles on 19 Feb 1825 (bond date) in Surry County, North Carolina and 2) Ann Hughes in 26 Mar 1832 (bond date) in Surry County, North Carolina. He moved to Tennessee and then to Early Grove, Marshall County, Mississippi where he died in 1867.

He was mentioned in his father's will, written 4 Dec 1839 (see the transcription earlier in this volume).

1850 North Carolina, Surry County, Marshes Township, page 336 HH 981/981:

Gideon Franklin, 45m, farmer, RE\$30, born NC; Sally Franklin, 45f, born NC; Jane Franklin, 14f, born NC; Mahala Franklin, 10f, born NC; Sally Franklin, 7f, born NC; James Franklin, 5m, born NC; Nancy Franklin, 1f, born NC.

1860 North Carolina, Surry County, Dobson Township, page 209 HH 360/360:

Gideon Franklin, 53m, farmer, RE\$800/PP\$250, born NC; Sally Franklin, 53f, born NC; Sally Franklin, 16f, born NC; James Franklin, 15m, born NC; Nancy Franklin, 12f, born NC; John Franklin, 6m, born NC.

Franklins in Surry County, North Carolina Marriage Bonds

By Ben Franklin, Editor. Surry County, North Carolina marriage bonds, early to 1868 [No author listed]; published 1954, [no publisher listed] 86 pages (LDS Film # 0422157) Similar lists have been published in FFRU before (Vol. 11 and Vol. 15), however there are a few names here that have not appeared in previous lists, and this list is footnoted, unlike the previous instantiations.

Groom	Bride	Date of Bond	Bondsman and Notes
Benjamin Childress	Ann Susan Franklin	30 Dec 1835	Anthony Collins
Wilcher Cox	Caroline Franklin	1 Feb 1855	Harvey Denney
Richard Critchfield	Sarah Franklin	6 Nov 1822	Abraham Reese
Richard Cunningham	Elizabeth Franklin ²⁶	18 Feb 1833	Nicholas Freeman
Gideon Franklin	Sally Bowles ²⁷	19 Feb 1825	Jesse Stanley
Gideon E. Franklin ²⁸	Ann Hughes ²⁹	26 Mar 1832	Francis P. Clingan
Hardin Franklin ³⁰	Nancy Gentry	24 Jan 1818	John Jarvis
Hardin P. Franklin ³¹	Martha E. Franklin	5 May 1837	J. D. Franklin
James K. Franklin ³²	Lydia Melton	31 Aug 1866	J. J. Jenkins
Jesse Franklin	Elizabeth Gentry	18 Oct 1817	Joseph Gentry
Jesse Franklin (colored)	Sarah Grogan (colored)	9 Aug 1866	William Stuart; Married 9 Aug 1866 by J. T. Johnson, J. P.
John Franklin	Polly Jarvis	30 Dec 1816	Stephen Jervis
M. Franklin	Melly Edwards ³³	22 Jan 1802 or 2 Feb. ----	Joel Riggs
Taliaferro Franklin ³⁴	Nancy Early	13 Mar 1826	Newel Jackson
Shurwood Franklin ³⁵	Micky Greenwood	3 Sep 1830	Lot (Wilmouth?)
Samuel Abraham Griffith	Mahaly J. Franklin ³⁶	29 Jan 1860	Elijah Moore

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26. See also Volume 3. Betsy Franklin was born 26 Mar 1805 in Surry County, North Carolina. She was the daughter of Shadrack Franklin and Judith (Taliaferro) Franklin. See FFRU Volume 14, article entitled "Shadrack and Judith (Hill) (Taliaferro) Franklin" and Volume 55, article entitled "PERSI: Shadrack Franklin Bible."
27. Gideon Edwards Franklin was born 28 Sep 1803 in Surry County, North Carolina; died after 1880 in Surry County, North Carolina. He was the son of Meshack Franklin and Mildred (Edwards) Franklin.
28. Son of Meshack and Mildred Edwards Franklin.
29. Listed as Nancy Hughes elsewhere in this volume.
30. Hardin P. Franklin was born in 1797 in Surry County, North Carolina and died before 1860 in Marshall County, Mississippi. He was the son of Jesse Franklin and Meeky (Perkins) Franklin.
31. Hardin P. Franklin was born in 1797 in Surry County, North Carolina; died before 1860 in Marshall County, Mississippi. He was the son of Jesse Franklin and Meeky (Perkins) Franklin.
32. James K. Franklin was born in 1845 in Surry County, North Carolina, son of Gideon Edwards Franklin and Sally (Bowles) Franklin.
33. This book says "Melley," although she is known to be "Meekey" [various spellings]
34. John Taliaferro Franklin was born 4 Jan 1799 in Michaels River, Surry, North Carolina; died 12 Jun 1886 in Gilroy, Santa Clara, California.
35. Perhaps "Sherrod" ?

Robert Hall	Mary Franklin	12 Feb 1796	Meshack Franklin
Silas Harris	Eady Franklin ³⁷	7 Dec 1801	Walter Franklin
Enoch B. Hunt	Mildred E. Franklin ³⁸	29 Sep 1834	Nathan D. Hunt
Ambros Johnson	Lucy Franklin ³⁹	28 Jun 1818	William Bourn, Jr.
James A. Lovill	Elisabeth Franklin ⁴⁰	11 Dec 1852	Married 16 Dec 1852 by B. F. Scott, J.P.
Absalum Lyons	Sarah Frankling	7 Feb 1817	Brison Cock
Azriah Marion	Sarah Franklin ⁴¹	9 Sep 1861	-----
Eligia Moore	Elisabeth Franklin	28 Jul 1855	Isaac Whitaker; Married 29 Jul 1835; by Joel Denny, J.P.
Gabriel T. Moore	Mary Franklin ⁴²	10 Sep 1829	Jno. F. Poindexter
Samuel D. Moore	Matilda Franklin ⁴³	29 Oct 1827	Litle Hickerson
Jefferson Nichols	Nancy Franklin ⁴⁴	3 Apr 1852	Tyre Simpson; Married 12 Apr 1852; by T. V. Hamlin, J.P.
Matthew Norman	Sally Franklin	14 May 1844	Wilson Norman
Thomas P. Scott	Sally T. Franklin ⁴⁵	16 Aug 1810	Edward Lovill, Jr.
William Slade	Nancey Franklin ⁴⁶	1 Mar 1821	James Stephens
Watemon Somers	Charity Franklin	9 Jan 1834	William G. Haynes
John Steveness	Rutha Franklin	11 Dec 1821	John McDade Marmo
Thomas J. Thurmond	Sarah Franklin ⁴⁷	11 Feb 1834	Duke Kimbrough
James Venable	Susan R. Franklin	15 Jan 1862	Enoch B. Hunt
William Wilmouth	Anna Franklin ⁴⁸	21 Aug 1822	Pleasant Venable; Married 16 Jan 1862 by Lemuel J. Stanley, J.P.
			William Franklin

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36. Mahala J. Franklin was born about 1840 in Surry County, North Carolina. She was the daughter of Gideon Edwards Franklin and Sally (Bowles) Franklin.
 37. Edith "Eada"/"Eady" Franklin was born in 1781. She was the daughter of John Franklin and Sarah "Sally" (Lewis) Franklin.
 38. Mildred Edwards Franklin was listed as daughter of Meshack Franklin in his will, and also mentioned in the will of her mother, Mildred (Edwards) Franklin.
 39. Lucy Franklin was born about 1798 in Surry County, North Carolina; died 1883. She was the daughter of Shadrack Franklin and Judith (Taliaferro) Franklin. She married Ambrose Johnson on 28 Jun 1818 in Surry, North Carolina
 40. Elizabeth Franklin was born in Jun 1832 in Surry County, North Carolina; died 15 Feb 1868. She was the daughter of Wylie Franklin and Mary (Taliaferro) Franklin.
 41. Sarah Franklin was born about 1843 in Surry County, North Carolina. She was the daughter of Gideon Edwards Franklin and Sally (Bowles) Franklin.
 42. Mary Cleveland Franklin Moore was listed as daughter of Meshack Franklin in his will, and also mentioned the will of her mother, Mildred (Edwards) Franklin.
 43. Matilda Caroline Franklin born 20 Mar 1799 in Surry County, North Carolina; died 16 Sep 1835. She was the daughter of Jesse Franklin and Meeky (Perkins) Franklin.
 44. Nancy Franklin was born about 1830 in Surry County, North Carolina. She was the daughter of Jesse Franklin and Meeky (Perkins) Franklin. She married Jefferson Nichols on 12 Apr 1852 in Surry County, North Carolina. He was born about 1829 in Surry County, North Carolina.
 45. Sallie T. Franklin was born in 1789 in Surry County, North Carolina; died 21 Dec 1811 in Kentucky. She was the daughter of Shadrach Franklin and Judith (Taliaferro) Franklin
 46. Daughter of Jesse and Meeky (Perkins) Franklin. Listed in Jesse's Will.
 47. Sarah Hardin Franklin was listed as daughter of Meshack Franklin in his will, and also mentioned the will of her mother, Mildred (Edwards) Franklin.
 48. Probably the daughter of James and Ruth (Lewis) Franklin

Jesse Franklin in the Revolution

Governor Jesse Franklin of North Carolina Surry County, is mentioned previously in this volume, in his father's will, and his own will. I previously wrote a brief biography of him and shared it in FFRU Volume 28. In that biography, there's a short version of the events described below, however, I've discovered more detailed information, so I thought I'd go ahead and write another article on these events.

Jesse Franklin first served in the Revolution in Orange County, Virginia. When he was about seventeen years old, in 1777, he volunteered in the Continental service and held a commission as a lieutenant in Washington's army. When his term of enlistment expired he returned to his father's home.

Before the Revolution, a large number of Virginians moved to settle the virgin forests, and fertile valleys of the Piedmont area of North Carolina. A brother of Jesse Franklin's mother, Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, was one of these. Before the beginning of the Revolution, Bernard Franklin had decided to move to North Carolina, as many of his neighbors and friends had done. So, when Jesse returned home from service, in the summer of 1778, Bernard sent his son Jesse to select lands appropriate for the settlement and to put up buildings to shelter the family when they would arrive in the fall. The fact that Bernard trusted such weighty responsibilities to his teenaged son is a strong indicator of the confidence he placed in him. Bernard Franklin was not disappointed. Jesse selected a beautiful valley for their future home, near the head-waters of Mitchell's River, and prepared for the arrival of the family. In the fall of 1778 Jesse's parents, with the younger children (four sons and two daughters), moved to their new home in Surry County, North Carolina. Jesse's two older brothers, Bernard and Jeremiah, remained in Virginia.

After moving, seventeen-year-old Jesse remained active in the Revolution. It is easy now two centuries later, to forget that the colonists were deeply divided about the war, and in fact the Tories outnumbered the Whigs in the area of Surry County. However their fewer number was more than made up for by the strong, aggressive, dynamic personalities of the Clevelands, Franklins, Taliaferros and their other Whig neighbors.

An example of the perilous times, and the respect and importance of Jesse Franklin to the Cause in the area of Surry County, North Carolina, is the fact that Jesse Franklin's name was used a few days before the battle to deceive and murder one of his friends. This happened the day after "Pyle's Massacre"⁴⁹ and is part of the tit-for-tat that occurred throughout the area at that time.

It was while General Pickens' forces were in the neighborhood of Mitchell's river that Major Lewis and his brother Joel, joined the Patriot forces as volunteers, although they held commissions in the Continental army, besides it was at this time that Jesse Franklin and his friend [Richard] Taliaferro enlisted along with numerous other Patriots in this part of the state. The above-named men took an active part in the Pyle's massacre... The following day Major Lewis was killed while out with a scouting party. A group of Tories trapped Major Lewis by stating they were "friends" and had been sent forward under the orders from Captain Jesse Franklin. Before Lewis could recover from the mistake in identity he was shot a number of times.⁵⁰

Pyle's Massacre set the stage for the Battle of Guilford Court House. It not only sapped the strength and morale of the local Loyalist forces working with Cornwallis, it seems to have enraged the British forces whose sense of fair-play on the battlefield was offended.⁵¹ One may surmise that Tarleton's dragoons were particularly keen for revenge.

At this time, Richard Taliaferro was a young man of 25, and now-Captain Jesse Franklin, just 17. Richard had married Dorcas Perkins in 1776 in Buckingham, Virginia and they had three small children. Richard's father Dr. John Taliaferro was prominent in the community for his Whig sentiments and as the only physician in the area, was active in providing care and relief for combatants of both sides. Both Richard and Jesse

49. Also known as "Pyle's Hacking Match", this occurred on 24 Feb 1781 in Orange County, North Carolina.

50. *History Of Surry County or Annals of Northwest North Carolina* by J. G. Hollingsworth, 1935, page 100-101

51. General Cornwallis, in a letter to Lord George Germain, reported that most of Pyle's force were "inhumanly butchered, when begging for quarters, without making the least resistance." - *Wikipedia*

had already fought together in Pyle's Massacre.

Three weeks later, Richard and Jesse were together again. There is some confusion about who they were serving under, but some have concluded that based on where they were positioned on the battlefield, they were serving as part of either Butler's Brigade or Campbell's Riflemen. They had arrived on horseback and walked some distance to where they took up position. They had two rifles between them, and Richard fired while Jesse reloaded for him. Richard killed several of the British, but the battle began to turn against the Americans and they were ordered to retreat. Their supporting cavalry fled as Tarleton's dragoons advanced to rescue the Hessians in that part of the battlefield, leaving the Americans who were on foot to run for their lives. The young men from Surry perhaps lingered a little too long, being among the last to leave the field - maybe trusting in their ability to escape because of their nearby horses. Tarleton's dragoons were in hot pursuit. As Jesse and Richard fled to their horses, Jesse although younger, with perhaps a little more fighting experience, had the presence of mind to quickly cut his horse's bridle, mount his horse and flee. When Richard stopped to untie his bridle, a dragoon pierced his side with a saber thrust, killing him.

After the British left, Jesse returned to his fallen cousin and buried him there. About this same time, Richard's father was caring for the wounded of the same battle, a few miles from where his son died.

Dr. John Taliaferro, who was surgeon in General Greene's Army was doing all he could to relieve suffering soldiers the day Richard was killed. After his son was buried where he fell, the wounded were moved to the Quaker Settlement, four miles away, New Garden, now Guilford College and he worked among the wounded as long as his services were needed, burying many in the graveyard there. He did all he could for the British that were left on the field and rebuked his daughter, Judith, who was helping him, for wishing to favor the Americans.⁵²

Jesse sadly gathered up Richard's belongings and returned home with them to Surry County. On arriving at Richard's house his beloved dogs recognized Richard's scent and they whined and moaned for their master. This scene was indelibly impressed upon the hearts of all who witnessed it - so much so that the story of the return of the riderless horse has been passed down for generations.⁵³ The memory of Richard Taliaferro is still cherished among his descendants and kinfolk.

As a side note about the battle, the Battle of Guilford Court House was not an insignificant skirmish.⁵⁴ It is said that General Cornwallis himself, who led the British, had three⁵⁵ horses killed from under him during the battle. The first, a large iron grey, the second, a dragoon's horse that he commandeered, and the third, a famous stallion named "Roundhead," which Tarleton had stolen from the farm of Judge Moore in Chatham County. One of the most detailed accounts of the Battle of Guilford Court House is contained in Schenck's *North Carolina 1780-81*, chapters seven and eight.

The Battle of Guilford Court House⁵⁶ was fought on 15 Mar 1781 within the city limits of present-day Greensboro, North Carolina. 1,900 British troops, under General Lord Cornwallis, fought an American force, under Rhode Island native General Nathanael Greene, numbering 4,400.

52. From *Ancestry And Posterity Of Dr. John Taliaferro And Mary Harding Taliaferro : With Notes On Berrymand, Newton, Beheathland, Franklin, Lingo And Other Southern Families* by Willie Catherine Ivey, page 116.

53. As told in *Ancestry And Posterity* by Hon. Jesse Franklin Graves. See the article in this volume entitled "Biography: Hon. Jesse Franklin Graves"

54. Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, the nation's first national park established at a Revolutionary War site, preserves the 220-acre heart of the battlefield.

55. Wikipedia says one horse.

56. The final climactic battle in the Mel Gibson movie "The Patriot," while largely fictionalized, is a combination of the Battle of Cowpens (see FFRU Vol 34 for additional information about Franklins in The Battle of Cowpens) and The Battle of Guilford Court House. "Colonel Tavington" corresponds to the real-life Tarleton. Mel Gibson's character was a conglomeration of real-life heroes Andrew Pickens, Thomas Sumter and Francis Marion.

The battle had lasted only ninety minutes. By the standards of the time, if one force retreated, the other was the victor, they had “taken the field.” Since the Americans retreated, the British technically defeated them, however, in doing so, the British lost over a quarter of their men. The British casualties numbered five officers and 88 others killed, with 24 officers and 389 others wounded, with an additional 26 men missing in action. Commenting about this battle, British Whig Party leader and war critic Charles James Fox echoed Plutarch’s famous words by saying, “Another such victory would ruin the British Army!”

Despite the relatively small numbers of troops involved, the battle is considered one of the most pivotal of the Revolutionary War. Prior to the battle, the British appeared to have successfully taken Georgia and South Carolina with the aid of strong Loyalist factions, and that North Carolina might soon fall. In the aftermath of the battle, General Greene moved into South Carolina, and General Cornwallis chose to invade Virginia. These decisions allowed Greene to unravel British control of the South, and led Cornwallis to Yorktown and surrender

Biography: Hon. Jesse Franklin Graves

By Ben Franklin, editor. While these are not exactly Franklins, Jesse Franklin Graves and his father Solomon Graves (who married the Mary Cleveland Franklin, daughter of Jesse Franklin) are mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Solomon is listed as an executor of the will of his father-in-law, Jesse Franklin. This history is also briefly quoted in *Franklin Fireplace*, page 1405.

Source: *History of North Carolina*; Published Chicago Lewis Publishing Company, 1919. Various authors. 6 Volumes. From Volume 5, pages 128, 129:

“Of a distinguished family, the late Jesse Franklin Graves made his own career distinctive as an upright and capable lawyer, a wise counsellor, a courageous leader in public life, and one of the ablest, most painstaking and conscientious judges who ever sat on the Superior Court bench of North Carolina.

He was born in Aug 1829, and death came to him in the maturity of his usefulness, on 9 Nov 1894.

His lineage is traced back to Capt. Thomas Graves, who was a native of England and arrived in the Virginia colony very early in the seventeenth century, not long after the landing of Captain Smith at Jamestown. He located in Accomac County, and his numerous posterity is now found in many of the Southern and Western states. His son John was born in Virginia and located in Elizabeth County of that colony, where he spent his last years. He married a Miss Perrin. Their son John was also a native of Virginia, but the name of his wife has not been preserved. In the next generation was also a John Graves, who was born in Virginia and married Isabella Lee, of Virginia. They came to North Carolina in 1770 and settled on County Line Creek in Caswell County, near where the Town Yanceyville now stands.

Barzillai Graves, grandfather of the late Judge Jesse Franklin Graves, was born in 1759. He became a Baptist minister, distinguished for his eloquence and powerful intellect. He married a lady of like mind and heart and culture, Ursula Wright. Their seven children were: Solomon; Barzillai, who died unmarried; Elizabeth, who married James Lea; Isabella, who married Hosea McNeill; Margaret, who married William Lipscomb; Jeremiah, who married Delilah Lea; and Mary, who married Thomas W. Graves. Rev. Barzillai Graves died 14 Jul 1827.

General Solomon Graves, father of Jesse Franklin Graves, was born in 1784, and died 28 Apr 1862. He acquired the title of general through his service in the state militia.

After completing his literary education Solomon Graves studied law under Hon. Bartlett Yancey of Caswell County. When admitted to the bar he moved from Caswell and located in Surry County. There he soon became prominent as a lawyer of sterling worth and ability, and for several terms was a member of the General Assembly, serving both in the House and Senate. For thirty-two years he was clerk and master in equity for Surry County, and was also for many years a trustee of the State University. Patriotism was a keynote to his character and he possessed a depth and sincerity of conviction beyond most of his contemporaries.

In a time when little attention was given to the subject he was a strong advocate for temperance. About 1818

General Graves married Mary Cleveland Franklin, daughter of Jesse Franklin, whose career as an early governor of North Carolina and subsequently United States senator is the subject of a sketch for other pages of this publication. Mrs. Solomon Graves died about four years before her husband. They had seven children: Meeky Ann, who married Rev. Miles Foy; Sarah Emily, who married Maj. J. W. Hackett; Mary Ursula, who married Col. Harrison M. Waugh; Elizabeth Franklin; Jesse Franklin; Margaret Isabella; and Barzillai Yancey.

Jesse Franklin Graves spent his boyhood and youth in a home which furnished every incentive to the attainment and realization of his best inbred talents. He completed his education at Emory and Henry College in Virginia, and read law with Judge Richmond M. Pearson, afterwards chief justice of the Supreme Court at Rockford. Admitted to the bar in 1852, he at once began the practice of his profession at Mount Airy, and continued a resident of that town until his death more than forty years later.

He was a student, patient, systematic and untiring; he loved his work and determined at the outset to make of himself a proficient lawyer. He delighted in the study of law as a great science, had a contempt for the superficial, and in his research and analysis sought to go to the very bottom and find truth and right in their essence. Not only did he store his mind with strictly legal learning, but enjoyed the companionship of the world's greatest authors and thus acquired a literary style which made his utterances and writings both accurate and pleasing. His conception of the essentials in life and in his profession may be more easily illustrated than expressed: On occasion when a young attorney asked him what were the most important and valuable books for the lawyer's library, he immediately answered, "The Bible, Blackstone's Commentaries on the English Law and Shakespeare's works," and he used them more than any other in his own. Thus upon the broadest foundation he built, with cleanness of thinking, soberness of opinion, accuracy of judgment and conscientious conduct of life's affairs, personal and professional.

In the earlier days the older and more experienced lawyers would make the round with the judge holding the courts of the district, appearing in counsel with the younger brethren in the several counties. Among those with whom Jesse Franklin Graves practiced for many years, and whose companionship he enjoyed were. Col. R. M. Armfield, Col. George N. Folk, Judge D. M. Furches, Col. E. L. Vaughn, Hon. Marsh Clement, Hon. R. Z. Linney, Col. A. H. Joyce, Col. James Morehead, Hon. John A. Gilmer, Maj. Quincy F. Neal, Capt. J. W. Todd, Hon. Joseph Dobson, Hon. Cyrus B. Watson, Hon. W. B. Glenn and others equally prominent in the profession in this section of the state. Intimate association during the many weeks they were traveling the circuit, interchange of opinions on all sorts of questions, legal, scientific, political, moral and ethical, and hard-fought battles in the court-room, broadened and developed and made yet stronger lawyers and advocates.

His law practice was varied, as was that of all lawyers in this part of the state, and he attended courts in Surry, Stokes, Yadkin, Allegheny, Wilkes, Davie and Ashe, appearing occasionally in Davidson, Forsyth and Guilford counties.

Only once did he yield and accept nomination for a political office. The matter of extending the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railway to his home county and town came up, and at the instance and solicitation of friends who felt he might be of peculiar service, he accepted nomination at the hands of his party and was elected a member of the General Assembly of 1875-6. He aided in securing the construction of the railroad and went back to his practice.

In 1878 he was nominated by the democratic convention of the then Ninth Judicial District, the delegates composing it being largely the lawyers with whom he had been associated for many years, judge of the Superior Court, to which honorable position he was elected for a term of eight years. Upon the completion of this term he was renominated and re-elected, and had served on the bench nearly sixteen years at the date of his death. He presided over the Superior Court in every county in North Carolina at least two terms and thus came to know every lawyer in the state. He had high sense of appreciation of the ethics of the profession, and in maintaining the dignity of the court he never forgot the courtesies due the attorneys and other officers of the court.

He was especially considerate of the young lawyer and smoothed over many a rough place for the new attorney with his first case, relieving his embarrassment and giving him confidence. He had a fine vein of hu-

mor and enjoyed sallies of wit, but never did he indulge his sense of the amusing to the discomfiture or humiliation of either lawyer or witness.

Being naturally of a judicial temperament, possessing abundant patience and capacity for work, always painstaking and diligent, enjoying the study of law, having a clear, strong, intellect and nearly absolute self control, he earned the high esteem and approbation of the bar and people, and won exalted position among the illustrious judges of North Carolina. He justly deserves the tribute paid him by the distinguished Judge David Schenck in his *History of North Carolina*, who in referring to Judge Graves says: "Than whom no better man nor purer judge adorns the bench of our state." Of him, also, George Davis, one of the South's most cultured and beloved sons, attorney-general of the Confederacy, wrote: "I know of no life presenting a fairer and brighter example of all that human life at its best and noblest ought to be than that of my cherished and honored friend. He was indeed an accomplished lawyer, an able and upright judge, and a truly good man. And if I knew any higher praise I would utter it of him." His was a well-ordered life, free from selfishness, self-promotion, self-laudation, self-interest, abounding in kindness, gentleness, charity and good-will to men; his character was pure and unsullied, his love of home and family was beautiful, his Christian faith was sublime.

On 26 Jan 1858, Jesse Franklin Graves married Mary Elizabeth Porter, daughter of Stephen and Margaret (McNutt) Porter of Wythe County, Virginia. Her grandfather, Andrew Porter, married Mary Gleaves.

Judge Graves and wife had seven children: Mary Blanche, Margaret Virginia, Bernard Franklin, Lillian McNutt, Stephen Porter, Susan Isabel and Malvina; Margaret Virginia and Lillian McNutt died in infancy. Mary Blanche graduated with distinction from Greensboro Female College and married Arch Hines of Surry County; their three children are: Mary Graves, who married Luther Montrose Carlton of Roxboro; Margaret who married John Worth McAlister of Ashboro; and Jesse Franklin, now in the United States army. Mrs. Hines was especially gifted in music and for many years after the death of her husband conducted a music school in Mount Airy. Bernard Franklin [Graves] was a student at the University of North Carolina, but was compelled to give up his college career on account of ill health. He engaged in farming as a means of recuperation, and while so engaged wrote many valuable articles for agricultural journals. Regaining his health, he became associated with his uncle, Col. B. Y. Graves, in the warehouse business and continued in that work to the time of his death, 2 Oct 1894. He was twice elected mayor of the Town of Mount Airy. Stephen Porter [Graves] was educated at Bingham School and the University of North Carolina. After completing his law course at the same institution, he located in his home town for the practice of his profession. His career is the subject of another sketch in this publication. Susan Isabel [Graves] was graduated at St. Mary's in Raleigh as valedictorian of her class, won two medals offered by the Teachers' Assembly of the state for best examination on history of North Carolina and history of the United States, contests being open to every teacher in the state. She is a teacher in the graded schools of Mount Airy and is regarded as a veritable encyclopedia of information on almost all subjects. She is a member of Raleigh Chapter of Daughters of the Revolution. Malvina [Graves] received her education at St. Mary's in Raleigh, also, and became quite an accomplished pianist. She married Barzillai Shuford Graves, of Caswell county, and they have one child, Mary Elizabeth Graves, now studying music in New York. Mrs. Graves has for many years been president of the Daughters of the Confederacy of Caswell County."

Biography: Hon. Shadrach C. Franklin

By Ben Franklin, Editor, FFRU. Source: *History of North Carolina*; Published Chicago Lewis Publishing Company, 1919. Various authors. 6 Volumes. From Volume 5 page 78-79:

"Hon. Shadrach C. Franklin has made his years and his efforts count chiefly as a farmer and stock raiser in Surray[sic] County, near Mount Airy. He has also served in the Legislature, and has filled various other places of trust and responsibility. Mr. Franklin is a member of an old and noted family of Western North Carolina. It is the same family which produced Governor Jesse Franklin, one of the early governors of this state and also a United States senator.

Mr. Franklin was born on a farm in the locality known as Haystack in Surry County 23 Jul 1845. He was

not yet sixteen when the war broke out, and at the age of eighteen he entered the Confederate army as a member of Company E of the 45th Regiment, Virginia Troops. He was with that regiment in many of its battles and campaigns until in Jun 1864, he was captured and as a prisoner of war was confined at Indianapolis. When the war was over he was released on parole.

The founder of the family in North Carolina was his great-grandfather, Bernard Franklin, who was born in Virginia of early English ancestry. Prior to the Revolutionary war he came to North Carolina and settled on Mitchell's River in Surry County. He was a pioneer there and helped redeem a portion of the wilderness. It was his son Jesse, afterwards governor and United States senator, who had first come to this region and while visiting his uncle, General Benjamin Cleveland, had selected the site where Bernard Franklin settled. The latter improved his farm and continued to live in that locality until his death. He married Mary Cleveland, a sister of the Revolutionary hero, Colonel Ben Cleveland. They reared five children: Jesse, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Mary. Grandfather Shadrach Franklin was born in Albemarle County, Virginia, but grew upon a farm in Surry County. He finally succeeded to the ownership of part of the old homestead and had his slaves to cultivate the fields. Late in life he went to live in the home of his son Wiley T., and died there at the age of ninety-two. Shadrach Franklin married Judith Taliaferro, who was born in Albemarle County, Virginia. Her father, Dr. John Taliaferro, a native of the same county, came to North Carolina in colonial times and was one of the very early settlers in what is now Stuart Creek township, Surry County. In the Revolutionary war he acted as a surgeon and looked after the wounded following the battle of Gilbert Courthouse. The farm which he improved is still owned by his descendants. Grandmother Franklin died at the age of eighty-two. Their children were seven in number, Bernard, Taliaferro, Wiley T., Polly, Lucy, Martha and Bettie.

Wiley T. Franklin was born on a farm that bordered Mitchell's River in Surry County, in Dec 1801. On that farm he spent his early days and after reaching manhood he bought another place on Mitchell's River but subsequently sold that and bought land on Fisher's River. He owned slaves and enjoyed the easy circumstances of the substantial planter. He occupied his old homestead until his death at the age of ninety years. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Taliaferro, a daughter of Charles Taliaferro and a granddaughter of the Dr. John Taliaferro, above named. She died at the age of ninety years and two months. She was the mother of seven children: Virginia, Martha, Bettie, Judith, Matilda, Lucinda and Shadrach C.

The only son in this family, Shadrach C. Franklin, had a farm training and acquired his education in the local schools before the war. When the war was over he went to Tennessee, but soon returned to Surry County and bought the farm he now occupies two miles west of Mount Airy. He has used a great deal of care and invested a large amount of capital in developing this place according to his ideals of an efficient farm. It consists of 200 acres and has ample buildings and other facilities for the handling of his livestock and his crops. His favorite cattle are the Shorthorns and he also raises Red Duroc swine. Mr. Franklin has been twice married. His first wife was Martha Whitlock, who was born in Stuart Creek Township of Surry County, a daughter of Charles and Celia (Roberts) Whitlock. Mrs. Franklin died four years after her marriage. Her two sons are James W. and Charles W., the former of whom married Alice McGee. For his second wife Mr. Franklin married Bettie Kapp, who was born on a farm bordering Mitchell's River in Surry County, a daughter of Adolphus and Mary (Thompson) Knapp. By the second union there are also two sons: Lee Fries and Bernard F.

Politically Mr. Franklin has always been a sturdy and staunch democrat. His election to the Legislature occurred in 1887, and besides the service he thus rendered his community he was for five years a member of the County School Board and two years county commissioner. He is affiliated with Surry Camp No. 7117 of the United Confederate Veterans, and has been commander of that camp most of the time since it was organized.

PERSI: Mr. Shade Franklin (Obit)

Submitted by Agnes Wells to *The Journal Of Surry County Genealogical Association*; Volume 20, Book 4, Winter 2000

Franklin, Mr. Shade

Mt. Airy, NC/News/ May 28, 1931

Messrs. J. W. and G. C. Lovill of this city attended the funeral of Mr. Shade Franklin, in Richmond, Virginia, last Saturday. Mr. Franklin was well advanced in years, possibly about 86 and was a veteran of the War Between the States, having enlisted before he was 18 years old. His remains were laid to rest in the section of Hollywood cemetery reserved for Confederate veterans.

For many years Mr. Franklin was a prosperous and influential farmer in this vicinity but when too old to manage his farm he sold and he and his wife went with the boys to Virginia. Mrs. Franklin passed away about 5 years ago and her remains rest at Cumberland, Virginia.

Mr. Franklin was twice married and was the father of 6 sons, 4 of whom, Jay and Charles of the first marriage and Lee and Bernie of the second marriage survives.

The first wife was Miss Martha Whitlock and the second Miss Bettie Kapp. He was a son of Mr. Wiley Franklin and Mary Taliaferro Franklin and is the last of a family of 8 children.

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