

A HOLBROOK FAMILY HISTORY



State of North Carolina N. 110
 To all to whom these presents shall come greeting
 Whereas that we for and in consideration of the sum of fifty
 dollars for every hundred acres granted paid into
 our treasury by John Holbrooke have given and
 granted and by these presents do give and grant unto the
 said John Holbrooke a tract of land containing one
 hundred and twenty acres lying and being in that
 County of Wilkes on the site of a Mountain near the
 head of Camp branch Beginning at a pine and running
 thence south two hundred feet to two white oaks also
 thence near a branch thence west twenty feet to a red
 oak on a hill side in Benjamin's lot and running
 north forty feet to a poplar and do hereby in the point
 of a hill near a branch it being the dividing line
 between the within mentioned persons Thence West fifty
 three feet along said poplar line to a red oak also
 thence north along on the hill side thence north one
 hundred and fifty feet to a chestnut oak and thence
 north along on the south side of Holbrooke's Mountain
 one hundred and fifty feet
 as by the plat hereunto annexed
 appearing together with all records relating to the
 said Holbrooke's purchase and all other
 and paying to us such sum of money
 as we at our general assembly from
 time to time shall cause this grant
 in the Register's Office of that State
 Wilkes within twelve months from



Dep 113
 Otherwise the same shall be void as
 if it be testimony whereof we have
 our great seal that it be hereunto affixed in
 witness whereof we have hereunto set our
 general and common seal the day of September
 the twenty fourth year of our said
 year of our Independence and in
 the year of our said Independence
 By the Register's Office

A Holbrook Family History

1550 - 2008

Tracing the family tree from Randel Holbrook I , 1550
to
Vincel Holbrook, 1912

By Mark Holbrook
2016

ABOUT THE HOLBROOK FAMILY HISTORY BOOK

Tracing your family tree is a challenging, yet rewarding task. The thrill of finding an ancestor's life story or photo can quickly turn to disappointment when you realize that it is the same name, but a different family. Such is the case with the Holbrook name. Two main immigrations of Holbrooks took place in the 17th and 18th centuries. The first, in 1635 occurred in New England not long after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. The second happened in the early 1700s and this is the family for which this book is written. After coming to America, the Holbrook family proliferated quickly and the resulting birth, death, and census records are filled with many reoccurring names. Countless John's, Henry's, Hargis's, and more populate North Carolina and Virginia in these early days. Making sure you have the right records for your family tree requires much checking and cross-checking. Using multiple sources helps to insure that the records you are assigning to a family member are the right ones. Even with all of the efforts to be accurate, there still remain some discrepancies in the records. These are noted where they occur. Known errors are noted in parentheses with the authors initials (MH).

The earliest known photograph of our Holbrook line is that of William Hargis and his family, taken about 1890-1900. It is entirely possible earlier photographs exist in the hands of distant family members. With the connectedness of the internet, hopefully these photographs will come to light in the near future.

The farthest back our family tree has been traced is through Mary Hargis Hammon's (wife of John Henry Holbrook) line to John Harges. John Harges was from Normandy, France. We don't have his birth and death dates, but his son, Louis Harges was born in 1522 in Normandy.

Reading The Family Entries

Each generation has its own page listing the father and mother, with their children (earliest generations are on one page due to lesser information). Dates are included as available and as much information as the records contain are included. Names that are of our direct line are in **bold**. Additional marriages and children are listed as available in the records and above or below the main entries depending on chronology.

After each generation, you will find background information relating to the place where each family lived to provide context. Some of this information is from the ancestors themselves—their wills, family accounts, obituaries, and other published accounts. Some of the accounts, images, and documents are not from our direct line, but rather ancestors' siblings or others. They are included to provide more context and make for interesting reading. The transcripts from these early years have been presented as written. Punctuation was almost nonexistent and spelling a matter of personal preference.

Holbrooks in History

Holbrooks have been servants and chaplains to kings, laborers, farmers, plantation owners, and soldiers. One Holbrook owned two ships that carried slaves. Another was the master and one-third owner of the Mayflower before it came to America. Holbrooks were knights in the Middle Ages and today some descendants are in politics. Actor Hal Holbrook is a direct descendent of Thomas Holbrook who immigrated to Massachusetts in the 1600s. Three descendants of Thomas became president, James A. Garfield, William Howard Taft, and George Herbert Walker Bush.

BACKGROUND OF THE HOLBROOK NAME

SPELLINGS

After the fall of the Roman Empire, several groups, or tribes, from Germany, Denmark, Norway, and Holland settled in different areas of England. They brought their spoken languages with them, which had the same origins as modern German languages. It is debated if they were invited, or if they came by force- or both. Although their languages were similar, the original differences sharpened after settlement. The natives probably spoke Gaelic, possibly mixed with some Latin words. This is in the general time of 400 - 1000 AD. One of these northern European groups was called the "Northmen; also known as the Norse and Normans". A group of them had settled in coastal France, among other places which became known as Normandy, due to their presence. This habitation caused many of the French language elements to become incorporated into their spoken language. When William defeated his half-brother, Harold at Hastings in 1066 AD, his soldiers were mainly other Northmen from Normandy. They took over as owners of the land and English Manors dispossessing the "now native" owners. The land and manors were generally given to these, and later-arriving Northmen. Some of the government records from this time are written in what is now called "early French." Initially these Norman land owners used a different language from the people then native to England. In academic and church communities, Latin was used for written records. From this use of several languages came a composite language, English. It was not that everyone started using this new blended language immediately, but rather that the Norman speakers had to speak with Anglo-Saxons and adopted some of their words. The Anglo Saxons likewise adopted Norman words. The result was that now English often has two words for the same thing; cow sheep hog. And their "Norman" words, beef, mutton, and swine.

There was not as much travel, nor movement of residence then, so dialects arose in different areas. By the 1400s, people in the north and south of England could not understand each other's speech. Language shifts are common to most languages and English shifted for the same reasons plus the Norman takeover of England added to the scope of the process. The introduction of the printing press caused an adoption of the midland dialect as it was most understandable to those in the north and south, and it was the dialect of London, the largest city of England. Cheshire and Lancashire were part of the Mercian kingdom and were later owned by a Prince, rather than by the King. The result of these political divisions became reflected in a regional accent to these two counties, and is seen in the parish registers where Holbrook is most commonly found as Houlbrook. The modern descendants of Cheshire use Holbrook and Houlbrook spellings in England, and Holbrook, Haibrook, and Haibrooks in the USA. In other English locations the name tended toward a spelling of Holbrook. In every area there is great diversity in the spelling, as the idea of "set" spellings had not evolved yet. The first general English dictionary did not appear until the mid- 1700's.

The name HOLBROOK is found as early as 968 in England, during the Anglo-Saxon time when it is found as HOLANBROC. The shifting of sounds over the years had its effect, and this earliest found version is later found as HOLENEROC, then as HOLEBROC. Continuing shifts made it HOLEBROOI, and HOLBROOK, this last being the most common spelling today. Latin had no "l", the "hard C" providing this "k" sound, and the spellings of those times generally reflect this.

MEANING

British language experts gave the information that HOLAN is what they call an oblique case of the Old English HOL, meaning "hollow, lying or running in a hollow". BROOC means "brook". The name means "the brook running in a hollow".

PLACE NAMES

There are two ways locations are named. First, a location is given the name of someone who lives there of that name. We see this today when we refer to "the Thompson place, or "the Thompsons". These names usually do not remain beyond the occupancy. The second method is where a name is attached to a location or physical feature. This type name may appear on a property deed as part of the land description and normally lasts longer than the occupancy type name. Two locations have been named Holbrook for over 900 years they are first found in the 1088 Domesday Book. These places, in Derby and Suffolk, are still named Holbrook today. Holbroc, a stream is named in Frodsham, Cheshire England in 1249. This stream flows northerly to the Weaver River, entering it to the South of the Frodsham Bridge.

HOLBROOK COAT OF ARMS

Two designs are known to be "official" for Holbrook. The first was that of Sir Richard de Holbrook whose design was simply a chevron of red on a gold field. His son, Sir John de Holbrook, had the same design with the addition of 10 crosses crosslet, gold. Both men are shown in the Suffolk line chart.

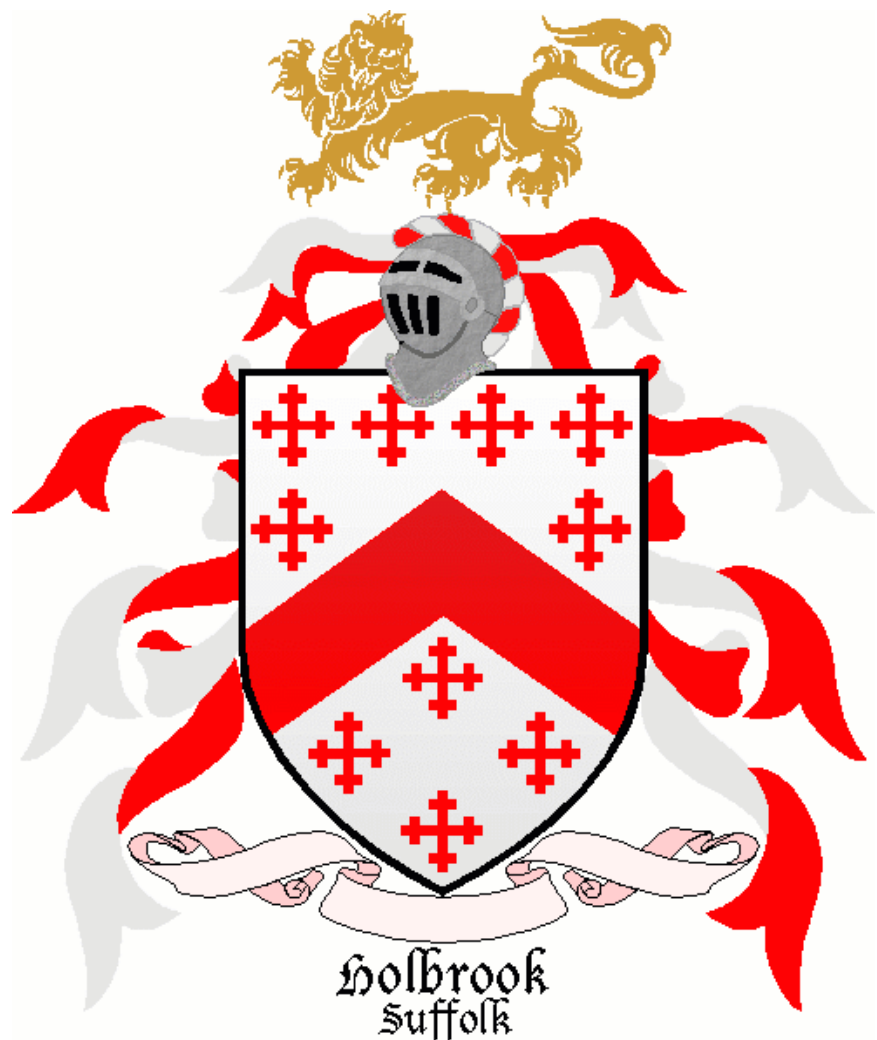
The original purpose of a Coat of Arms and Crest was identification of the person who was enclosed in armor. It was common at this time for each person to have their own design, and the design variation between Richard and John above is typical.

It was not until later that the idea of a single design, which was to travel down the generations, came into being. This caused the creation of a College of Arms, whose job it was to register designs to ensure that they had not been previously issued to others, and to prevent unauthorized people from claiming arms. The King would send Harolds on Visitations (as late as the 1600's) to inquire in local areas as to who claimed the right to arms and their descent. Many of these Visitations exist today.

Two other designs are stated to be for Holbrook. One is a chevron with three martlets (birds); the second is a chevron with a single large cross over it. No legitimate bearer of these designs has been found, but they are reported in a few books which keeps the error going. The last one of a chevron with a cross is the partial description of the Holbrook Crest! A Crest was worn on their helmets while a Coat of Arms was worn on their shield.

Later grants of Holbrook Arms have been made, including one American, which is done and is legal, but they are in recent centuries and of different designs.

The arms illustrated are those of Sir John de Holbrook. They are identical with the arms of George Holbrook, which are recorded in a 1619 Visitation to Kent. Though the genealogy of George is unknown, I have no doubt he is a Suffolk line descendant due to the seriousness with which coats of arms were treated in this era.



The oldest records for the Holbrook line in western England begin with Randel Holbrook I

Randel Holbrook I

Birth: 1562, Little Budworth, Cheshire, England

Death: 1638, Cheshire, England

Randel Holbrook II

Birth: 1586, Little Budworth, Cheshire, England

Death: 1642, Little Budworth, Cheshire, England

Ann Rogers

Birth: 1565, Tarpoley, England

Death: 1608, England

Margaret Holbrook

Birth: 1590, Little Budworth, Cheshire, England

Death: Unknown

Maria Holbrook

Birth: 1596, Little Budworth, Cheshire, England

Death: Unknown

King Edward VI ruled England from 1547 to 1553

Queen Mary I rule from 1553 to 1558

Elizabeth I ruled from 1558 to 1603

SOCIETY IN TUDOR ENGLAND (1500s)

In 16th century England, most of the population lived in small villages and made their living from farming. However towns grew larger and more important. During the 16th century trade and industry grew rapidly and England became a more and more commercial country. Mining of coal, tin and lead flourished. So did the iron industry. During this period England became richer and richer. As England grew more and more prosperous life for the well-off became more and more comfortable. Upper class and middle class people benefited from the growing wealth of the country. However for the poor in Tudor England life did not improve. For them life was hard and rough. Meanwhile in the 15th century the population of England may have been around 2 and a half million. It rose steadily during the 16th century. By 1525 it had risen to around 3 million and by 1600 it was about 4 million.

Tudor society was divided into four broad groups. At the top were the nobility who owned huge amounts of land. Below them were the gentry and rich merchants. Gentlemen owned large amounts of land and they were usually educated and had a family coat of arms. Most important, gentlemen never did any manual work. Below the gentry were yeomen and craftsmen. Yeomen owned their own land. They could be as wealthy as gentlemen but they worked alongside their men. Yeomen and craftsmen were often able to read and write. Below the yeomen were the tenant farmers who leased their land from the rich. There were also wage laborers. They were often illiterate and very poor.

In the 16th century about 50% of the population lived at subsistence level. In other words they had just enough food, clothes and shelter to survive. For them life was very hard. However it was possible to move from one class to another. With hard work and luck a husbandman could become a yeoman. A yeoman could buy a coat of arms and become gentlemen. It was possible for an ambitious young man to rise in the world.

In Tudor Times the parish became the basis of local government. The most important person was an appointed magistrate called the Justice of the Peace. Meanwhile in Tudor Times kings and queens grew stronger. During the Middle Ages the barons held castles, which were difficult to capture so it was easy for them to rebel. Cannons changed all that.

Randel Holbrook II

Birth: 1586, Little Budworth, Cheshire, England

Death: 1642, Little Budworth, Cheshire, England

Randel Holbrook III

Birth: 1630, Little Budworth, Cheshire, England

Death: 1671, probably England

Francis Davenport

Birth: about 1600, Cheshire, England

Death: 1662

King James I ruled from 1603 to 1625

King James Bible is translated beginning in 1604 and published in 1611

During this same time, William Shakespeare writes his many plays

Randel Holbrook III

Birth: 1630, Little Budworth, Cheshire, England

Death: 1671, probably England

Randolph (Ralph) Holbrook IV

Birth: 1657, Hough, Cheshire, England

Death: January 15, 1726, Walgherton, Cheshire, England

Alice

Birth: about 1630, England

Death: unknown

King Charles I rules from 1625 to 1649

SOCIETY IN 17th CENTURY ENGLAND

During the 17th century the population of England and Wales grew steadily to about 4 million in 1600 and grew to about 5 1/2 million by 1700. By the late 17th century trade was an increasingly important part of the English economy. Meanwhile industries such as glass, brick making, iron and coal mining expanded rapidly. During the 1600s the status of merchants improved. People saw that trade was an increasingly important part of the country's wealth so merchants became more respected. However political power and influence was held by rich landowners.

At the top of 17th century society were the nobility. Next were the gentry. Gentlemen were not quite rich but they were certainly well off. Below them were yeomen, farmers who owned their own land. Yeomen were comfortably off but they often worked alongside their men. Below them came the mass of the population, craftsmen, tenant farmers and laborers.

For the upper and the middle classes life grew more comfortable but for the poor life changed little. At the end of the 17th century a writer estimated that half the population could afford to eat meat every day. Below them about 30% of the population could afford to eat meat between 2 and 6 times a week. They were 'poor'. The bottom 20% could only eat meat once a week. At least part of the time they had to rely on poor relief.

By an act of 1601 overseers of the poor were appointed by each parish. They had power to force people to pay a local tax to help the poor. The old and the disabled would be provided for. Anyone who refused to work was whipped and, after 1610, they could be placed in a house of correction. Pauper's children were sent to local employers to be apprentices. On a more cheerful note in the 17th century in many towns wealthy people left money in their wills to provide almshouses where the poor could live.

Randolph (Ralph) Holbrook IV

Birth: 1657, Hough, Cheshire, England

Death: January 15, 1726

Walgherton, Cheshire, England

Elizabeth Hodgkisson (No record of children)

Birth: 1665, Acton Parish, Cheshire, England

Death: November 11, 1699, Acton Parish, Cheshire, England

1684 - Marriage of Randolph to Elizabeth Hodgkisson, Acton Parish, Cheshire, England

1687 - Marriage of Randolph to Mary Wilcoxson,
Walgherton, Cheshire, England

Mary Wilcoxson

Birth: 1667, Walgherton, Cheshire, England

Death: November 11, 1699

Wybunbury Parish, Cheshire, England

Elizabeth Holbrook

Married Samuel Venables

Birth: 1689, Wistaston, Cheshire, England

Death: 1719

John Holbrook

Married Mary Brassy in 1720

Birth: 1690, Walgherton, Cheshire, England

Death: March 1733, King George County, Virginia

Randall (Randolph) Holbrook

Married Anne Stanway

Birth: May 19, 1696, Chester, Cheshire, England

Death: 1793, Stafford County, Virginia

William Holbrook

Birth: August 1700, Wybunbury Parish, Cheshire, England

Death: October 1756, Fort Cumberland, Stafford County, Virginia

Jane Holbrook

Birth: October 3, 1704, Wybunbury Parish, Cheshire, England

Death: March 27, 1719, Wybunbury Parish, Cheshire, England

Thomas Holbrook

Birth: 1707, Wybunbury Parish, Cheshire, England

Death: 1732, Audlem, Bridgemere, Engla

King Charles II ruled from 1660 to 1685

King James II ruled from 1685 to 1688

The historical records are in conflict as to the birth and death of Elizabeth Hodgkisson. One record has her birth in 1700. Regardless, her death date of 1699, same as Mary Wilcoxson is probably an error. Elizabeth likely died between 1684 when she married Randolph and 1687 when Randolph married Mary. Records indicate that Randall and Anne immigrated to America to escape religious persecution. They were Baptists and not favored by the English Crown and its Anglican Church.



Walgherton, Cheshire County, England
Today (2016)

Randall (Randolph) Holbrook

Birth: May 19, 1696, Chester, Cheshire, England

Christened on May 19, 1696, Wybunbury Parish,
Cheshire, England

Death: 1793, Stafford County, Virginia

February 20, 1715, Randolph married Anne (Mary) Stanway,
Sandbach, Cheshire, England

Anne Stanway

Birth: about 1695, Sandbach, Cheshire, England

Death: 1732, Overwharton Parish, Stafford County, Virginia

John Henry Holbrook Married Mary Hargis Hammon

Birth: 1727, Goochland County, or, Russell County,
Virginia, Colonial America

Death: 1805, Dockery, Wilkes County, North Carolina

John was a Revolutionary War Veteran

Edy Holbrook

Married Mary Tolben

Birth: 1728, North Carolina or Virginia

Death: November 20, 1833, Georgia

Edy was a Revolutionary War veteran

1729, Randolph Holbrook married Jannette Elizabeth Conyers, Stafford, Virginia

Jannette Elizabeth Conyers

Birth: 1708, Overwharton, Stafford, Virginia, USA

Death: 1752, Westmoreland County, Virginia, USA

Susannah Pattison Conyers

Birth: 1732, Stafford, Virginia

Jannette Holbrook

Birth: 1732, Virginia

Elizabeth Holbrook

Birth: 1733, Prince William County, Virginia

Death: 1801, Spartanburg County, South Carolina

John Holbrook

Birth: 1742, Goochland, Virginia

Death: 1805, Dockery, Wilkes, North Carolina

King William III and Queen Mary II ruled from 1689 to 1702

Queen Anne ruled from 1702 to 1714

King George I ruled from 1714 to 1727

HOLBROOK IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA

We do not know when the Holbrooks of our line came to America. Since Randolph and Ann Stanway were married in England in 1715 and their first son John Henry was born in Virginia in 1727, it was some time between 1715 and 1727. Searches have discovered no passenger lists for ships sailing to America in the early 1700s.

RANDOLPH, JOHN AND WILLIAM HOLBROOK.

Of Cheshire, England, Stafford and King George Counties, Virginia

Ralph Holbrook of Walgherton, Cheshire, states in his 1725 Will that his children are: Elizabeth, married to Samuel Venables; John (to be given a share of the estate if he should come and claim it in 7 years); Thomas; William; and Randol, who had a son Randol named in this Will. Nowhere is a share given to Randol, his son.

Parish registers show that John married Mary Brassy in 1720 and had Mary, 1720; William, 1722. The fate of Mary is unknown and his 1733 will names his wife as Katherine. His son, William, married in 1744, Stafford Co Virginia and is found in Stokes County North Carolina after a 1758 tax list. This 1733 Will also names as a brother, Randolph of Stafford Co VA and, godsons, Edy, Randolph, and John.

This brother Randolph moved to Goochland County, Virginia about 1752 where he died in 1777. His sons moved to Wilkes County, North Carolina in the late 1770s. And all three are found there in a 1787 state census.

Edy went to South Carolina and Georgia prior to 1790 with the other two staying in Wilkes; Randolph died in 1793 and John about 1808.

Another William Holbrook is found in Stafford County, Virginia, who appears to be related to Ralph who had the 1725 Will. He died in 1754 leaving son, William Jr. who died summer, 1755 at Fort Cumberland. Few records have been found of either, other than where William Sr. was charged with adultery and paid a fine in 1730. The son seems to have been at "Braddock's Defeat", for Braddock raised his army to fight the Indians in the Stafford County, Virginia area, they went to Fort Cumberland where they were defeated in the summer of 1755. No other issue has been found and there are no strays around so it is believed that this line died out.

NOTES FOR RANDALL (RANDOLPH) HOLBROOK:

He was a Tobacco Grower in Stafford Co. Virginia in 1729

Randall Holbrook was a tobacco tender 1724 in Overwharton Parish Stafford County, Virginia in the part of Stafford that later was in Prince William County. Prince William County formed March 1731. (The Register of Overwharton Parish).

The will of John Holbrook, brother of Randal, listed his wife Katherine to be "whole and sole Executrix. He gave half of his estate to "my three God Sons, Jno (John) Holbrook, Randall Holbrook and Edy Holbrook.

Then he bequeathed unto his well beloved wife Katherine Hollbrook all my whole estate only the one half of it to be equally divided between my "three cousins above mentioned after my wife's decease. (The will was abstracted by George Harrison Sanford King and appears in King George County Virginia Will Book .

John Henry Holbrook

Birth: 1727, Goochland County, or, Russell County,

Virginia, Colonial America

Death: 1805, Dockery, Wilkes County, North Carolina

1763, Marriage of John Holbrook to Mary Hargis Hammons

Mary Hargis Hammon

Birth: February 7, 1726, Goochland, Russell County, Virginia

Death: 1782, Wilkes County, North Carolina

John Henry Holbrook Jr. Married Mary (Molly) Cooksey

Birth: 1765, Goochland, Russell County, Virginia

Death: 1822, Russell, Fayette County, Virginia

Larkin Canaday Holbrook

Birth: 1768, Goochland, Russell County, Virginia

Death: Unknown

Henry Hargis Holbrook Married Catherine Gross in 1798

Birth: 1776, Surry, Wilkes, North Carolina

Death: August 22, 1836, Dockery, Wilkes, North Carolina

Randolph B Holbrook Married Elizabeth Adams in 1795

Birth: 1778, Wilkes County, North Carolina

Death: April 1847, Mayking, Letcher County, Kentucky

King George II ruled from 1727 to 1760

King George III ruled from 1760 to 1820

LIFE IN COLONIAL AMERICA

At first life was hard and rough in the North American colonies. However by the early 18th century people in the American colonies lived in houses as comfortable as those in Europe. Wealthy people had finely carved furniture, wallpaper, china, silver and crystal and chairs were common. In 1742 Benjamin Franklin invented a kind of metal stove. Of course, for the poor things were different. Their houses were often small and crowded and their furniture was basic. They could not afford luxuries like silver but some ordinary people had pewter, which was sometimes called poor man's silver.

Food and Drink in Colonial America

Beer and cider were common. For the wealthy wine and brandy were imported. For ordinary people rum became a popular drink in the late 17th century. In the 18th century tea became popular. People also drank chocolate. The first chocolate factory in America opened in 1765 in Massachusetts. In the 18th century grains like rye, wheat and barley were grown. Colonists also grew vegetable like onions, turnips, parsnips and carrots. In the 18th century they grew potatoes. If meat was available stew was a popular meal. People in 18th century America also ate ice cream.

Clothing in Colonial America

In the 18th century men wore breeches and stockings. They also wore waistcoats and frock coats. They wore linen shirts. Both men and women wore wigs and for men three-cornered hats were popular. Men wore buckled shoes. Women wore stays (a bodice with strips of whalebone) and hooped petticoats under their dresses. However in the 18th century women did not wear panties. Fashionable women carried folding fans.

Work in Colonial America

Most people in North America lived by farming. It was back breaking work and usually lasted from dawn to dusk.

However in the south by the 18th century great plantations existed alongside the many small farms.

In North America there were the same craftsmen found in Europe such as carpenters, coopers, tanners, millers and blacksmiths. There were also apothecaries who sold drugs. By the 18th century most towns had specialized trades such as gunsmiths, locksmiths, clock and watch makers, silversmiths and cabinet makers.

In the north shipbuilding flourished in the 18th century and there were many shipwrights, caulkers, rope makers, block makers and sail makers. By 1700, most towns also had a sawmill powered by water. In the North American colonies lumber was abundant. So were streams and rivers.

Recreation in Colonial America

Pastimes in 18th century North America were the same as those in Europe. Horse racing was popular. So was cock fighting. Bull baiting was also a popular 'sport'. A bull was chained to a post and dogs were trained to attack it. Hunting and fishing were also common as a way of obtaining food as well as for fun.

Religion in Colonial America

In the early 18th century there was a great religious revival in the North American colonies. (Later it was given the name 'The Great Awakening'). Leading figures in the revival were William Tennent 1673-1745, a Scottish-Presbyterian preacher, Jonathan Edwards 1703-1758, a Congregationalist and John Davenport 1716-1757. The English preacher George Whitefield 1714-1770 also visited the colonies and won many converts.



Scene of a typical Colonial America rural farm, much like the Holbrooks would have looked in Wilkes County, North Carolina in 1770-1790.

In the party was John Holbrook and probably his brothers. Young John Hammon, our subject, grandson of William, traveled with his mother and step-father, John Holbrook. A manuscript record in the office of Secretary of State of North Carolina reads: "The Publick of North Carolina to John Nuckols—Dr. for going against the Cherokee Indians in Obedience to an express from the Commanding officer of Tryon County. Feby 9th 1771. —John Nuckols Capt, 6 days at 7s. 6d.—diet 4s. - - - £2. 19s . . . Martin Hammons, 6 days at 2s.—do [diet] 4s. - - - 16s . . ."¹⁵ From this we know that with the usual "singular caution" they had sent ahead to reconnoiter. The location that the William Hammon party chose for settling was on the Roaring River, a tributary of the Yadkin in Mulberry Fields, now Wilkesboro, and in the now Wilkes County, North Carolina.

Here, at the same time, also settled Benjamin Morgan and wife Phebe Settle of Fauquier County, Virginia, whose son Charles later became young John Hammon's father-in-law. In the same county on the upper reaches of the Hunting and Panther creeks was the six hundred acre farm of Daniel Boone.¹⁶ This section was sparsely settled at the time. So much so that in 1777 when Wilkes County was formed from Surry, the Hammon, Holbrook, and Morgan families were the first to enter land. Christopher Gist, Jr., had 5,000 acres at Mulberry Fields in 1749,¹⁷ but the frontiersmen were slow in following him. Bishop Spangenberg, in seeking a tract of land suitable for a Moravian settlement in 1752, wrote concerning this location: "These are old Indian fields—where the Cherokees probably lived once. They have a pleasant situation and remarkably fertile soil. Morgan Bryant had taken them up but they are uninhabited."¹⁸ The Hammon and Holbrook land was situated to the north in the foot hills of the Blue Ridge, on a branch of Roaring River still called Hammon's Creek, and extending uphill to include the present site of the resort hotel at Roaring Gap.

John, in his deposition, verified the location of his home: "He was living in Wilkes County, North Carolina, on Roaring River, at the foot of the Blue Ridge when called into service."¹⁹ His step-father, John Holbrook, entered "175 acres south of mountain near camp branch. Including plantation . . . 18 June 1778,"²⁰ and another 220 acres in 1779.²¹ John Holbrook must have been away from home most of the time during this period, as the records show he gave 84 months of service in the Revolutionary War.²² The only glimpse that we get into the family life of the

It seems, the movement of the Holbrook family (now with the Hammons) to avoid religious persecution continued in America. The below account explains why the family moved from Goochland County, Virginia (near Richmond) to the Wilkes County, North Carolina area just before the Revolutionary War began

According to researcher Stratton O. Hammon ("Saga of John Hammon Revolutionary War Hero and Kentucky Pioneer", 1979), the Hammond's and related Holbrook families left Virginia around 1775, as a result of religious difficulties. They were "Desenters bearing the Denomination of Baptists &c." and were seeking the freedom to "meet together for the worship of God in our way. . ." William Hammond (brother of Ambrose) became the minister of the South Fork of the Roaring River Baptist Church.

John Hammon's father died when he was about three years of age. This would have been 1763. Mary Hargis Hammon was left a widow with at least one son and probably more and it would have been natural for there to have been several daughters. Widows were scarce in those days and she quickly married John Holbrook, son of Randolph, in Goochland County Virginia and had several more sons, among them Hargis, Randolph and Colby Holbrook.

About this time people were changing from the Church of England to the Baptist faith and were having trouble about it. In 1774 a year before the Battle of Bunker Hill, William Hammon, the uncle of our John Hammon, Journeyed to Fauquiere County, Virginia, where in company with John Wright, Jr., a cousin of George Washington, and others he petitioned as follows:

"To the Worshipful Court of Fauq. Co. The Petition of us the Subscribers Sheweth, that we being desenters bearing the Denomination of Baptist and _____. Desiring to Worship God According to the Best light we have in Holy Scriptures, and the Dictates of our own consciences, humbly prayeth that your Worships would be pleased to grant us the liberty to meet together for the worship of God in our way..."

The court took an entire year to give them an answer and by that time they were on their way to North Carolina where they had the freedom to worship as they pleased. William Hammon became the Minister of the South Fork of the Roaring River Baptist Church in Wilkes County, North Carolina and apparently led the entire Hammon and Holbrook families to that location..., which happened to be only several miles from the farm of Daniel Boone. Our John Hammon made the trip with his mother and stepfather, John Holbrook.

A description of the land acquisition of John Henry's brother Ralph by Katherine Traynham:

Before there was a Wilkes County, when it was still Surry, the Parish of St. Jude, there were Holbrooks beside the east prong of Roaring River on Holbrook Mountain, a scenic spur off the Blue Ridge between the east and middle prongs of the river. Randolph (or Randol) Holbrook, his wife and family, accompanied by William Hargas, from Goochland County, Virginia, were among the early settlers.

Soon after Wilkes was formed and the land grant office opened in 1778, Randolph filed an entry for 250 acres near his brother John's (our ancestor) on which he had made 'improvements' on the east fork of Roaring River, on the south side of a mountain. Other entries included: John Fugit for land 'near the Gap of Holbrooks Mountain'; George Brewere, 'at the foot of a mountain called Holbrook's Mountain'; and William Hargas, 'on top of Holbrooks Mountain.' Peter Greenstreet's entries had established the name as Greenstreet Mountain.



Cleared area shows original boundaries of John Holbrook's plantation.

Extract from Revolutionary War Veteran Land Grant Records

<i>Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants</i>		251
Hogan, Peter. Pa. Private. ———, 200 acres.	Hoit, John M. Me. Private. 22 Oct. 1835. 200 acres to widow Catherine Hoit. Standish.	
Hogan, Peter. Va. Private. 28 Jul. 1830. 200 acres.	Holbrook, Eddy. Va. Private. 5 Aug. 1784. 100 acres.	John's brother Edy (Eddy)
Hogan, Roger. N.C. Private. 15 Feb. 1797. 274 acres.	Holbrook, Jesse. Va. Private. 5 Aug. 1784. 100 acres.	
Hogan, Thomas. Va. Sergeant. 13 Jan. 1834. 400 acres.	Holbrook, John. N.C. ———, 11 Jul. 1785. 640 acres to heirs.	John Holbrook's Land Grant
Hogan, William. Va. Private. 19 Mar. 1832. 200 acres.	Holden, Daniel. Me. ———, 22 Sep. 1835. 200 acres. Sweden.	
Hogans, Rawley. N.C. Private. 7 Dec. 1797. 640 acres to heirs.	Holden, Daniel. Mass. ———, 24 Jul. 1829. 200 acres to assignee William Eaton.	
Hogarth, John. Ga. Soldier. 6 Apr. 1785. 230 acres.	Holden, Isaac. N.C. Private. 2 Feb. 1786. 274 acres.	
Hogg Eleanore. Conn. Sufferer. New/East Haven. 1.17.0.	Holden, James. N.C. Corporal. 5 Sep. 1821. 1000 acres.	
Hogg, Jacob. Ga. ———. 17 May 1784. 250 acres.		

John Henry Holbrook and his brother Edy were in Captain Samuel Johnson's Company of the Wilkes County Militia. They fought primarily in South Carolina, a description of some of that action is below.

The Battle of King's Mountain (1780)

Following the defeat of General Benjamin Lincoln at the Siege of Charleston in May and the defeat of General Horatio Gates at Camden, the British commander, Charles Cornwallis, appeared to have a clear path all the way to Virginia and that American resistance was at an end. In September, General Cornwallis invaded North Carolina and ordered Major Patrick Ferguson to lead an expedition to the settlements on the lower slopes of the Alleghany Mountains to get recruits, as there were many loyalists in the region. Ferguson provoked the Mountain Men living in the area by using threats rather than persuasion. Suddenly from the mountains and from the settlements in Tennessee rode a body of armed frontiersmen who had been joined by Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina militia. They found the British soldiers encamped on the top of King's Mountain. In about an hour they had killed or captured every British soldier in the ensuing battle, forcing General Cornwallis to retreat from Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Battle of Hanging Rock (1780)

As part of a series of strongholds planned to maintain the British position in South Carolina, an outpost was established at Hanging Rock in 1780. The importance of this post was in its strategic location on the road from Camden to Charlotte. The first American attack on the post occurred on July 30, 1780, led by Major William Richardson Davie, with forty dragoons and forty mounted riflemen. Davie's attack on a garrisoned house near the fort, and not the fort itself, was successful; he took about 60 horses and 100 stand of arms. On August 5, 1780, General Thomas Sumter crossed the Catawba River 20 miles north of Rocky Mount at Land's Ford, where about 500 North Carolinians under Major Davie and Colonel Robert Irwin joined his 300 South Carolina militiamen. They marched 16 miles during the night and reached Hanging Rock Creek early Sunday morning. The British garrison was held by 1,400 men under the command of Major Carden of the Prince of Wales Regiment. Sumter's surprise attack began at six o'clock with the men advancing across the creek against Bryan's Tory militia. Sumter meant to attack the entire British line, but misjudged; the American units met instead the northern end of the British line. Sumter's troops then attacked the main British camp. The British retreated further south to Colonel Robinson's camps, but Sumter moved in and took two-thirds of that camp also. After three hours of fighting, many of Sumter's men were unable to continue the battle. It was agreed to plunder the British camp and depart.

State of North Carolina N^o 110

To all to whom these presents shall come greeting
 Knowye that we for and in consideration of the sum of fifty
 Shillings for every hundred hereby granted paid into
 our Treasury by John Holbrooks have given and
 granted and by these presents do give and grant unto the
 said John Holbrooks a Tract of Land containing one
 hundred and twenty Acres lying and being in our
 County of Wilkes On the side of a Mountain near the
 head of Camp branch Beginning at a pine and running
 Thence South two hundred pole to two white oaks in a
 Glade near a branch thence West twenty pole to a red
 Oak on a hill side in Benjamin Orley line thence
 North forty pole to a poplar and dogwood ^{standing} on the point
 of a hill near a branch it being the dividing line
 between the within mentioned persons Thence West eighty
 Thence pole along said Orley line to a red Oak and
 Rough Oak sapling on the hill side thence North one
 hundred and fifty pole to a Chestnut Oak and another
 Oak sapling on the South side of Holbrooks Mountain
 Thence East One hundred and fifty pole to the first
 Station as by the plat here unto annexed doth
 appear together with all woods waters mines minerals
 hereditaments and appurtenances to the said Land
 belonging or appertaining to hold to the said
 John Holbrooks his heirs and assigns for ever yielding
 and paying to us such sums of money yearly or other
 wise as our general assembly from time to time
 may direct provided always that the said John
 Holbrooks shall cause this grant to be Registered
 in the Registers Office of our said County of
 Wilkes within twelve months from the date hereof

Page 113

Otherwise the same shall be Void and of no
 effect In testimony whereof we have caused
 our great Seal to be hereunto affixed with the
 Richard Caswell Esquire our Governor Captain
 general and Commanded in Chief at Kingston
 The twenty fourth day of September in the fourth
 year of our Independence and in the year of
 our Lords one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine
 By his Excellency Com^{rs}

Transcript of John Henry Holbrook Land Grant

This transcription is as exact as possible, including the lack of punctuation, capitalization and misspellings.

State of North Carolina No. 1.10

To all whome these presents shall come granting Know ye that we for and in consideration of the sum of fifty shillings for every hundred hereby grant to paid unto our treasury by John Holbrook have given and granted and by these presents do give and grant unto said John Holbrook a tract of land containing one hundred and seventy acres lying and being in or near the head of Wilkes on the side of a mountain near the head of camp branch Beginning at a pine and running thence south two hundred rods to two white oaks in a glade near a branch thence west seventy rods to a red oak on a hill side in Benjamine Orleys line thence north forty rods to a poplar and dogwood sapling on the point of a hill near a branch it being the dividing line between the within mentioned persons thence west eighty nine rods along said Orley's line to a red oak and rough oak sapling on the hill side thence north one hundred and sixty rods to a chestnut oak and a white oak sapling on the south side of Holbrook Mountain thence east one hundred and fifty rods to the first station as by the plot here unto assured doth affirm together with all the woods waters mines minerals here belonging or appertaining to hath to the said John Holbrook his heirs and assigns for ever yielding and paying to us such sums of money yearly or other wise as our general assembly from time to time may desire provider always that the said John Holbrook shall cause this grant to be registered in the Registers Office of our said County of Wilkes within twelve months from the date thereof

Otherwise the same shall be void and of no effect in testimony whereof we have caused our great seal to be hereunto affixed _____ Richard Caswell Esquire our governor Captain general and commander in chief at Kingston the twenty fourth day of September in the fourth year of our independence and in the year of our Lord one thousand seventy nine

By his Excellency Com'd



View looking north to Holbrook Mountain (now Greenstreet Mountain). John Henry Holbrook's plantation was in the center of this image at the base of the mountain.

Henry Hargis Holbrook

Birth: 1776, Surry, Wilkes, North Carolina

Death: August 22, 1836, Dockery, Wilkes, North Carolina

1798, marriage of Henry Hargis Holbrook and Catherine Gross

Catherine Gross

Birth: 1777, Goochland, Virginia

Death: 1810, Dockery, Wilkes, North Carolina



Phoebe Holbrook about 1870-80

Elizabeth Holbrook Married Henry Gambill

Birth: About 1799, Wilkes County, North Carolina

Death: July 25, 1855, Lawrence County, Kentucky

Ezekiel Holbrook Married Susannah Crouse

Birth: About 1802, Green Mountain,

Wilkes, North Carolina

Death: 1858, Wilkes, North Carolina

John Hargis Holbrook Married Martha Shepherd Triplett

Birth: About 1802

Death:

Mary Polly Holbrook Married John Collier

Birth: 1804, Wilkes, North Carolina

Death: About 1870, Lawrence, Kentucky

Phoebe Holbrook Married William Barker Sr.

Birth: 1806, North Carolina

Death: 1880, Elliott County, Kentucky

William B. Holbrook Married Sarah (Sally) Fyffe

Birth: About 1811

Death: September 2, 1877

George Washington was president from 1789 to 1797

John Adams was president from 1797 to 1801

Thomas Jefferson was president from 1801 to 1809

United States in the 1800s

In 1800 the United States consisted of 16 states with a population of 5 million people. Most people still lived within 50 miles of the Atlantic Ocean. Almost 1 million of these people were enslaved African-Americans.

Three main regions developed in the United States— North, South, and the West.

North- Most large cities were located in the North. The largest being Philadelphia with 69,000 people. The North still had very little farming, but by the 1800 much of the North had begun to industrialize. Differences between the regions caused many to see Northerners as enterprising, thrifty, and quick to chase a dollar.

Regional Differences

South- The south continued to flourish with agriculture. Growing crops like tobacco and cotton. A large portion of slaves lived in the South under poor conditions. The cash crops grown were largely sent overseas to European countries. A plantation system dominated the economy, while most southerners had fewer than 10 slaves. The rich plantation owners of the south were seen as gracious, cultured, and (in the eyes of Yankees) lazy.

Regional Differences

West- The West can be defined as anything past the Appalachian Mountains. Most people moving that way were looking for open spaces to begin a new life. Many were trappers or adventurers preferring to stay away from towns. Others became farmers growing wheat or ranchers raising cattle to sell in America. Those that moved west had a constant fear of Indian raids. Frontiersmen were deemed rugged, hardy, and crude.

WILLIAM HENRY AND ELIZABETH HOLBROOK GAMBILL

From Wilkes County, North Carolina to Lawrence County, Kentucky

Hargis Holbrook, probably the last son (2nd to last (MH) of John and Mary Hargis Hammon Holbrook, was born about 1775, and was married to Katherine Gross about 1798. Having inherited a large farm from his father, Hargis and his wife lived out their lives in the Dockery area of Wilkes County, North Carolina where their farm was located. The oldest child of Hargis and his wife, Katherine, as shown in the deed of conveyance, which was made after the death of their parents, was Elizabeth, born about 1799. Elizabeth married Henry Gambill in 1816, moved to Lawrence County, Kentucky, had eleven children, and died 25 July 1855.

Source: Paul W. Gregory, Wilkes County, NC Heritage Book, 1982.

A chart taken from the extant tax lists of Wilkes County and the State and Federal Census for Wilkes County showed that in 1799, the year Elizabeth was born, her father, Hargis Holbrook, owned a 300-acre farm.

Source: *Some Pioneers From Wilkes County, North Carolina*, compiled by Mrs. W. O. Absher

A map of Wilkes County shows the Dockery Area in Walnut Grove Township. Absher Road runs north from Dockery to Absher. Five miles northeast of Dockery is Gambill Road, which parallels Gambill Creek on the East Side of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

William Henry Gambill, son of John A. Gambill, Sr. (b. abt.1750 -- d. abt.1839) and Catherine, was born Ca1790 in Wilkes County. It is interesting to note that Hargis Holbrook was married to Katherine Gross about 1798, while John A. Gambill, Sr. was supposedly married to Catherine Gross about 1770. Henry married Mary Elizabeth Holbrook, born 1799, in January 1816 in Wilkes County, NC. According to various records, Elizabeth and Henry had at least eleven children. Henry and Elizabeth both died in Kentucky. Henry died November 1, 1846, and Elizabeth died on July 25 1855.



Holbrook House Bed & Breakfast. Home built by Clarence Deloss Holbrook in 1913. CD Holbrook was a descendent of John Henry Holbrook's brother Ralph. The home is owned today by Nancy Holbrook Porter and her mother DeLoris Holbrook Porter.

The Holbrooks and Gambills attended the Old roaring River Baptist Church

Excerpts from the Minutes of The South Fork of (Old) Roaring River Baptist Church, Wilkes County, North Carolina,

1785

Sunday the 25th (March). Part of the church setting in order Bro. John Holbrook & Thomas Colyar made an acknowledgement to the church, Holbrook for suffering dancing in his house & Thomas Coylar telling a lye (in) the church received their recantation but laid them over till meeting in course.

Satterday ye 12th of November. The church setting in order. Sister Levised Turner applyd for a dismission & it was granted. Also Bro. John Holbrook joind by letter the church sot him forward to doe the work of a Dacon. Quarry wheater it be lawfull for a member of the church to follow trading for a lively hood & would not work the lazy man condemd - the trading man unsettled.

1792

Satterday ye 10th of March. The church setting in order Bro. Christepher Maner came in with a recantation concerning drinking more that he aught & the church receivd his recantation, Also the church deligated Bro. Timothy Buttereay and Bro. John HolbrookJur. to go to see Bro. Evins to know the reason why he dose not come to see us. Also Bro. Frances Runnels to labour with Bro. Christerpher Maner for renting out a place that belongd to Bro. Runnels & then stressing for the rent & refusing to pay up Bro. Runnels the money that he recievd for the rent and he Gould not (g)ain him and he got help but could not gain him still and then agreed to choose two brethern out of each church and let them settle it and Bro. Maner chose Bro. Sparks & Bro. Spencer Adams.

December ye 8th 1792. The church setting in order Bro. John Holbrook came in with a recantation concerning getting drunk and the church lookd upon it to be best to lay it over till next meeting. Also the church concluded if any of the male members fail attending the monthly meetings without sending an excuse, to appoint deligates to goe to know the reason.

January ye 12th 1793. The church setting in order Bro, John Holbrook got fellowship Bro. Gibson Mainer made a recantation for getting angry and fighting lai'd over till next meeting.

1795

Satterday 12th of November the church setting in order Sister Sarah Mainor disappeared and the church saw cause to deny her fellowship. Also Sister Ann Harris applyd for dismission and it was granted. Also Sister Susannah Harris applyd for a dismission and it was granted. Also Bro. John Holbrook applyd for a dismission and it was granted.

New Roaring River Baptist Church
13932 Longbottom Road
Traphill, North Carolina

Believe to be about 1/4 mile from and on
the opposite side of the road of
the site of the original church



William B. Holbrook

Birth: About 1811

Death: September 2, 1877, Magoffin County, Kentucky

May 23, 1833, marriage of William B. Holbrook and Sarah Fyffe

Sarah (Sally) Fyffe

Birth: About 1811, Virginia

Death: August 22, 1877, Magoffin County, Kentucky

Fanny (Francis) Holbrook
Birth: April, 1834,
Lawrence County, Kentucky
Death: 1912Married David Smith,
August 11, 1852Henry Holbrook
Birth: October, 1836
Death: 1912

Married Elizabeth Grace Smith

Henry served in the 15th Kentucky Infantry (Union)
during the Civil WarLilburn was a private in Company K of the 3rd
Kentucky Mounted Infantry in the Confederate ArmyThe 3rd KY fought at the Battle of Shiloh, at Baton
Rouge then, participated in various conflicts
around Vicksburg and Jackson , Mississippi. During
the spring of 1864 the regiment was mounted and
continued the fight by confronting the Federals in
Mississippi, Georgia, and Alabama. It was included in
the surrender on May 4, 1865Lilburn (Littleburn) Holbrook
Birth: May, 1940,
Lawrence County, Kentucky
Death:Married Francis J. Conley,
March 15, 1867**William Hargis Holbrook**
Birth: April, 1842,
Morgan County, Kentucky
Death: January 21, 1923,
Martha, Lawrence County, Kentucky

Married Isabella Smith

Mary Ann Holbrook
Birth: 1844,
Lawrence County, Kentucky
Death:Married David Smith
May 22, 1861John H. Holbrook
Birth: May 18, 1845, Lawrence County, Kentucky
Death: June 10, 1908, Flat Gap, Johnson County, Kentucky

Married Elizabeth Hamilton

Elizabeth Holbrook
Birth: 1849, Lawrence County, Kentucky
Death: 1933, Kentucky

Married Ambers Estep

James Madison was president from 1809 to 1817
James Monroe was president from 1817 to 1825
John Quincy Adams was president form 1825 to 1829
Andrew Jackson was president from 1829 to 1837
Martin Van Buren was president from 1837 to 1841
William Henry Harrison was president in 1841Pelia (Perlina) Holbrook
Birth: 1850, Lawrence County, Kentucky
Death:Littleburn Holbrook - Served in the 3rd Kentucky
Mounted Infantry, Confederate State of AmericaEzekall Holbrook
Birth: January 21, 1851, Lawrence County, Kentucky
Death:

Married Mary E.

William Hargis Holbrook

Birth: April, 1842, Morgan County, Kentucky

Death: January 21, 1923, Martha, Lawrence County, Kentucky

March 16, 1865 in Morgan County, KY, William Hargis Holbrook married Isabella Smith

Isabella Smith

Birth: November, 1843

Death: November 23, 1906, Morgan County, Kentucky



Sarah Holbrook, unknown date

Note: John Wesley Bradley and Nancy Mae Bradley were brother and sister.

Elisha Holbrook

Birth: 1864 (More likely 1865)

Death:

John Holbrook

Birth: October, 1868

Death:

Mary Elizabeth Holbrook Married John Wesley Bradley

Birth: July 22, 1871, Kentucky

Death: August 6, 1933, Carter County, Kentucky,

Sarah Holbrook

Birth: 1873

Death:

Henry Green Holbrook

Married Nancy Mae Bradley

Birth: August 8, 1876

Married Margaret Seattie Fyffe

Death: February 20, 1945

Pleasant Holbrook

Birth: July, 1883

Death:

Ora Holbrook

Married Victoria

Birth: January, 1886

Death:

John Tyler was president from 1841 to 1845

James K. Polk was president from 1845 to 1849

Zachary Taylor was president from 1849 to 1850

Millard Fillmore was president from 1850 to 1853

Franklin Pierce was president from 1853 to 1857

James Buchanan was president from 1857 to 1861

Abraham Lincoln was president from 1861 to 1865

Andrew Johnson was president from 1865 to 1869

Ulysses Grant was president from 1869 to 1877

Rutherford B. Hayes was president from 1877 to 1881

James A. Garfield was president in 1881

William Hargis Holbrook holds a unique distinction as a veteran of the Civil War. He fought for both the Confederacy and the Union. He began the war with the 5th Kentucky Infantry of the Confederate States of America, followed by an enlistment in the 45th Kentucky Infantry in the Union Army. William's brother John also enlisted in the 5th Kentucky, but chose to remain in the unit when it reenlisted, truly creating a brother against brother scenario. Below are brief histories of the two regiments.

William Hargis Holbrook as a private in the 5th Kentucky Infantry (Confederate), Company K.

When the Civil War came to Kentucky, the state was torn apart. Although the eastern portion of the state was generally pro-Union, there were pockets of hard core pro-Confederates. These people were mainly mountaineers from the counties of Carter, Morgan, Breathitt, Johnson, Floyd, Perry, and divided loyalties during the war. One of the early units formed from the area was the 5th Kentucky Infantry, a 12-month regiment. For its first year in the field, the 5th Kentucky spent the majority of its time guarding the salt works and mountain passes along the Kentucky – Virginia border. Although their only fighting consisted of a few small skirmishes, the duty was very arduous, consisting of many marches and counter marches, and as in most other units in the Civil War, sickness was rampant. When the 5th's enlistment concluded after 12 months, William Hargis chose not to reenlist and returned home.

William Hargis Holbrook as a private in the 45th Kentucky Mounted Infantry (Union), Company I.

First organized as a Battalion for service in Eastern Counties of Kentucky and on the Virginia border, and so served till October, 1863. Then covered the front from Cumberland Gap to Louisa till March, 1864. Action at Saylersville, Ky., November 30, 1863. Chased John Hunt Morgan's Confederate Cavalry Brigade May 31-June 20 during the famous raid that went on to invade Indiana and Ohio. Action at Saltsville October 2. Stoneman's Raid into Southwest Virginia December 10-29. Bristol, Va., December 13. Abington, Va., December 15. Near Marion December 17-18. Saltsville December 20-21. Capture and destruction of salt works. Mustered out Companies "A," "B," "C," "D," "E" and "F" December 24, 1864, and Companies "G," "H," "I" and "K" February 14, 1865. Regiment lost during service 10 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 1 Officer and 102 Enlisted men by disease. Total 113.



William Hargis Holbrook and his wife Isabella
Sons are (L) John, (R) Pleasant



William Hargis' brother John H. Holbrook served as
a private in the 5th Kentucky Mounted Infantry,
Company D, Confederate Army.

July 7, 1899, **Henry Green Holbrook** married Manda Jane Cox

Birth: 1880

Death: 1906

Carmie Elsie Holbrook Married Dewey Burk

Birth: September 5, 1903 December 22, 1922

Death: October 6, 1936

Henry Green Holbrook

Birth: August 8, 1876

Death: February 20, 1945

Nancy Mae Bradley

Birth: 1893

Death: November 21, 1926

July 12, 1911, Henry Green Holbrook married Nancy Mae Bradley



Dewey Burk and Carmie Holbrook
About 1925-30

Vincel Holbrook

Married Alma Barker

Birth: June 19, 1912, Mima, Kentucky

Death: April 22, 1992, Columbus, Ohio

Marriage - August 29, 1934

Brenford Virgil Holbrook Married Nora Jewell Bradley

Birth: January 17, 1918

Death: October 24, 1990

Served as a private in the U.S. Army during WWII from July 9, 1941
to September 3, 1945.

Bronston A. Holbrook

Married Violet L.

Birth: February 27, 1924, Mima, Kentucky

Death: December 20, 2005, Greenwich-Shenandoah, Ohio

Seaman 1st Class, U.S. Navy, WWII

December 5, 1988, married Evelyn Legg

November 18, 1931 Henry Green Holbrook married Margaret Seattie Fyffe

Margaret Seattie Fyffe

Birth: September 14, 1891, Ophir, Morgan County, Kentucky

Death: January 4, 1965, Westville, Indiana

Margaret is aunt to Myrtle Fyffe (Vincel's second wife)

Chester A. Arthur was president from 1881 to 1885

Grover Cleveland was president from 1885 to 1889

Benjamin Harrison was president from 1889 to 1893

Grover Cleveland was president from 1893 to 1897

William McKinley was president from 1897 to 1901

Theodore Roosevelt was president from 1901 to 1909



Henry Green Holbrook, about 1930-35

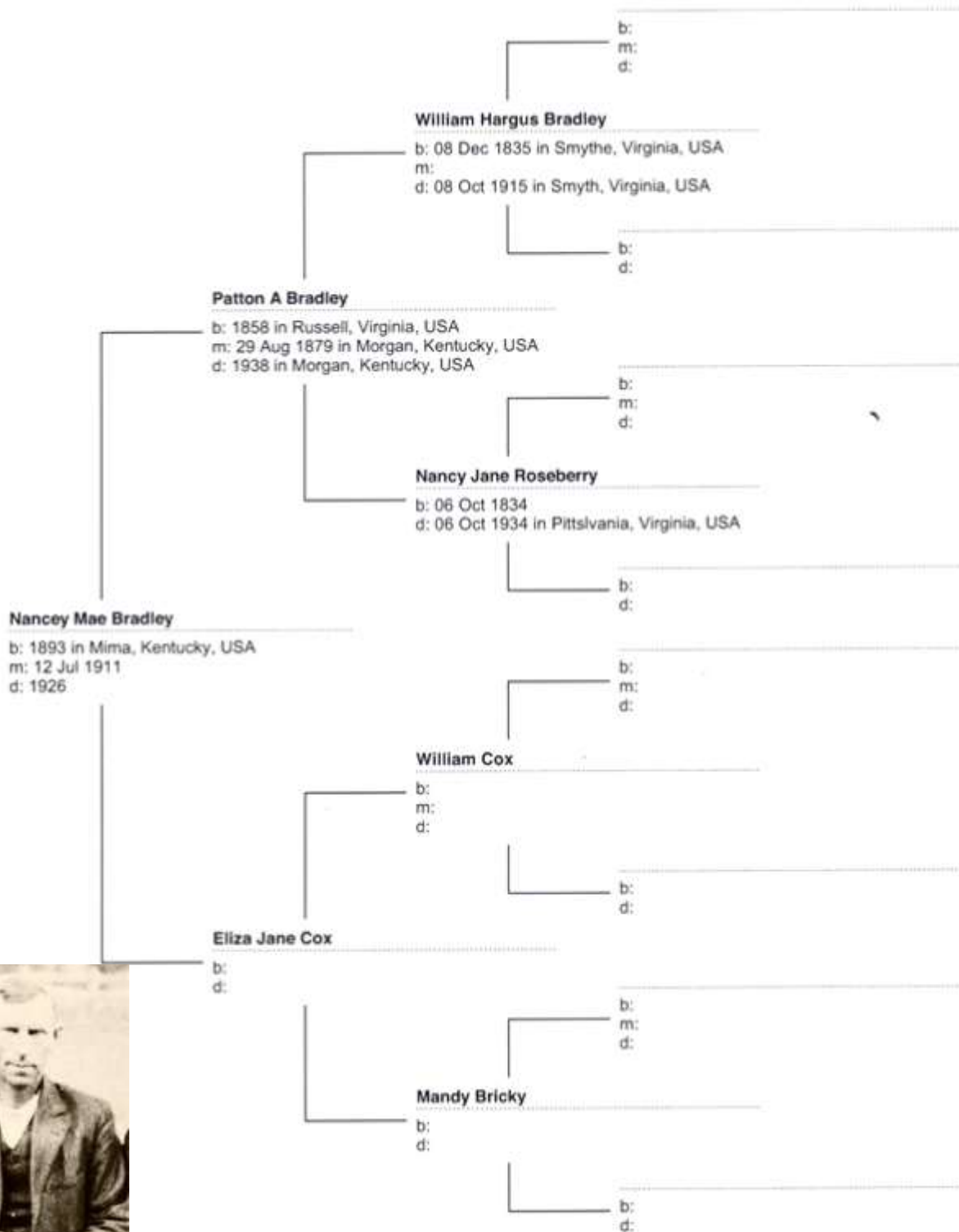


Henry Green Holbrook, 1945



Alonzo Barker and Charlotta
"Lottie" Isabel Holbrook,
Alma's parents, about 1955

Family Tree of Nancy Mae Bradley



Nancy Mae's brother John Wesley Bradley.
John Wesley was also husband of Mary Elizabeth
Holbrook, Henry Green's sister.



Clayburn Stacy Holbrook and Melinda Jane Reynolds Holbrook
About 1890-1900



Braddock Holbrook headstone
Green, Elliott County, Kentucky



Alonzo Barker and Charlotta Holbrook Barker
About 1940-50



Mary Barker, about 1870-80
Alma's great-grandmother



Lonzie Barker, date unknown



Patton Anderson Bradley and Elizabeth Jane Cox Bradley,
about 1900



Far left, unknown. Center, Charlotta Holbrook Barker. Back right,
Robert Wilson. Front right, Myrtle Holbrook Wilson

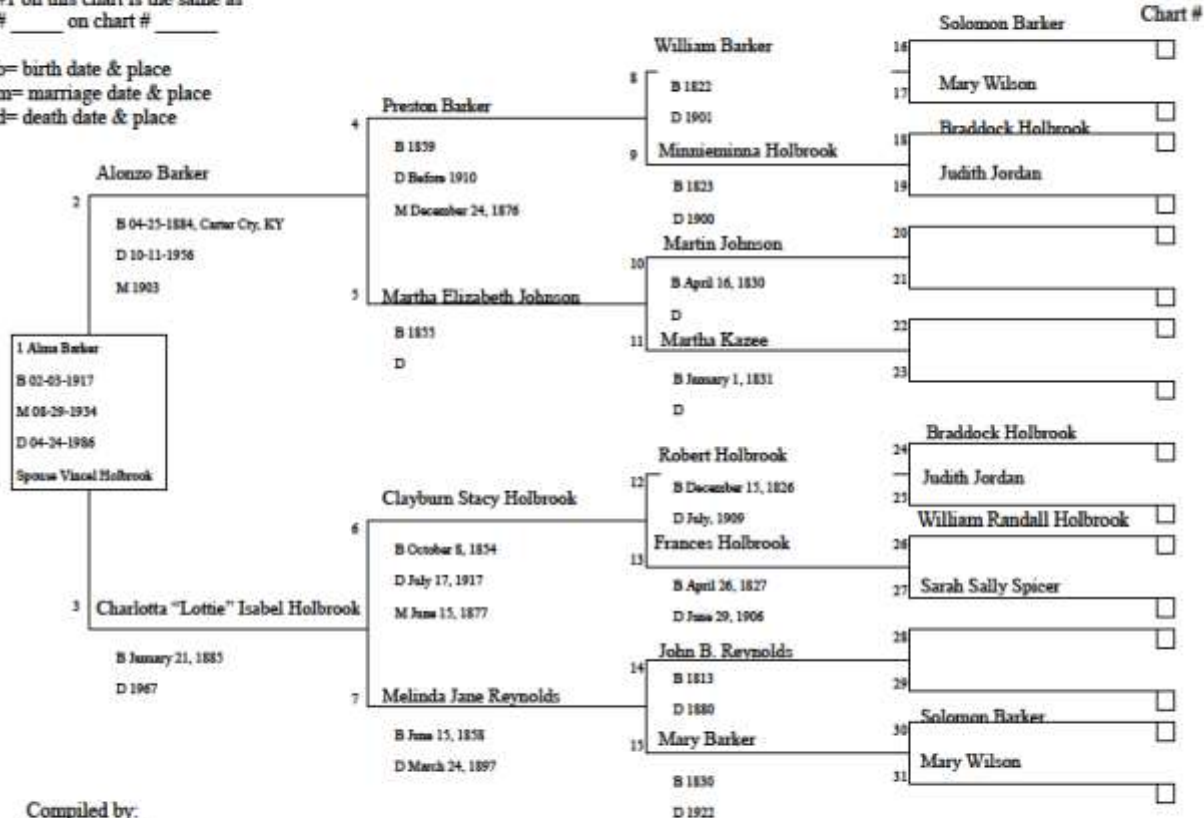


Mary Elizabeth Johnson (left), about 1910-20,
Alma's grandmother. Woman on the right is
Mary's daughter Meldia.

Five-Generation Ancestor Chart

#1 on this chart is the same as
_____ on chart # _____

b= birth date & place
m= marriage date & place
d= death date & place



Note: Alma's 3rd great grandfather, Hezekiah Barker lived in Wilkes County North Carolina the same years as John Henry Holbrook and his family. Records show both as Revolutionary War soldiers fighting in the same battles, so probably were in the same regiment.



The Barker Family

ANCESTOR CHART

Compiled by Mark Holbrook

Date June 14, 2016



MIDWEST
GENEALOGY
CENTER

John Henry Holbrook Jr

Father

B 1765
W Goochland County, Virginia
D 1822
W Russell, Fayette County, Virginia
M
W

**Ancestors
of:**

Braddock Holbrook

B October 17, 1787
W Wilkes County, North Carolina
D July 31, 1871
W Elliot County, Kentucky
M
W

Mary Molly Cooksey

Mother

B 1765
W Goochland County, Virginia
D 1833
W Russell, Fayette, Virginia

Key

B - When Born
W - Where Born
D - When Died
W - Where Died
M - When Married
W - Where Married

John Henry Holbrook Sr

Grandfather

B 1727
W Goochland County, Virginia
D 1805
W Wilkes County, North Carolina
M 1763
W

Mary Hargis Hammon

Grandmother

B 02-07-1726
W Goochland County, Virginia
D 1782
W Wilkes County, North Carolina

LeMaster Cooksey

Grandfather

B 1734
W Charles, Maryland
D 1800
W Tazewell, Virginia
M 1760
W Charles Maryland

Nancy Ward

Grandmother

B 1730
W
D
W

Randall (Randolph) Holbrook

B 05-19-1696
W Chester, Cheshire, England
D 1793
W Stafford County, Virginia
M February 20, 1715
W Sandbach, Cheshire, England

Anne Stanway

B 1695
W Sanbach, Cheshire, England
D 1732
W Ovensherton Parish, Stafford County, Virginia

Thomas Hargis

B
W
D
W
M
W
B
W
D
W

Mary Jane Weddington

B
W
D
W

John Cooksey

B 1711
W Virginia
D May 3, 1758
W Charles, Maryland
M
W

Mary Reed

B 1711
W Talbot, Maryland
D April 30, 1770
W Charles, Maryland

B
W
D
W
M
W

B
W
D
W

Randolph (Ralph) Holbrook

B 1657, Hough, Cheshire, England
D 1726
M 1687

Mary Wilcoxson

B
D
M

B
D
M

B
D
M

B
D
M

B
D
M

B
D
M

B
D
M



Bradley Family History

William Hargis Bradley and Nancy Roseberry Bradley were born in Old Virginia and North Carolina in the early part of the 18th century of Irish parents. They came to this country from Ireland during the religious persecution and settled in North Carolina and Virginia and bore the hardships of the colonial days, and suffered a great deal for their religious faith. William H. Bradley was of pure Irish stock as was portrayed by his humor and wit, and he was reared to manhood in the good old state of Virginia and married Miss Nancy Roseberry. She was also Irish and a very religious lady. At the outbreak of the War Between the States, in loyalty to his state and to the principles of democracy, he cast his lot with the Confederacy

William Hargus Bradley and his wife Nancy Jane Roseberry

going in to the army early in the war. He served with honor and suffered many hardships in that struggle, having fought in the famous battle at Lookout Mountain. Near the close of the war, he settled in Ohio on Pine Creek. His wife crossed the mountain with her children on foot, then came by boat down the Big Sandy and Ohio Rivers to Coal Grove where he met them and took them on to their home.

After leaving Ohio, they moved to Carter County, Kentucky near Coalton. There are some of the folks buried there near the old church on the hill to this day.

Leaving Carter County, they moved to Elliot County and from there to Morgan County where they lived to see all of their children married into some of the most prominent families in the County. His children were given Irish names and taught to be honest and upright citizens with Baptist principles. In politics, they were Democrats and instructed their children to vote the straight democratic ticket. William Hargis Bradley left many of his kindred in the state of Virginia from which place many have settled in different Counties of Kentucky and other states.



The Bradleys: Front (L-R)-Billy, Melvin, Bessie, Mary Elizabeth, Jason, John Wesley, William Hargus
Back (L-R)-Nancy Mae, Ora, Henry, Sarah



Vincel Holbrook, about 1912-13



Vincel Holbrook and friend Coy
about 1922-23



Vincel and Brenford Holbrook
about 1920-21



Vincel, Henry Green, Brenford , and Nancy
Mae Holbrook, about 1925



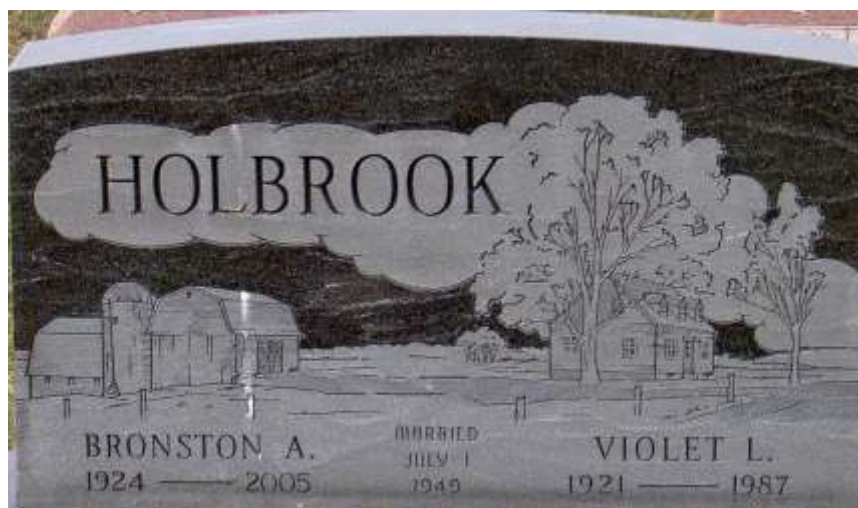
Alma Holbrook, about 1945



Vincel and Alma Holbrook, about 1945-50



Kneeling, James Haskins, Vincel Holbrook, Alma Holbrook, Dessie and Jim Phillips, unknown date



Hobert Holbrook, 1938



Alma Holbrook with Hobert, about 1938



Vincel Holbrook



Harold, Alma, Vincel, Hobert, Jim (front)
Holbrook



Vincel and Alma Holbrook



Jim Holbrook on horse, Vincel behind



Vincel Holbrook and John the mule with the hand-made farm sled



Vincel, Alma, and Hobert Holbrook



Hobert with son Jeff, 1960



Front row: Vincel Holbrook, James Holbrook

Back row: Harold Holbrook, Hobert Holbrook

A KENTUCKY FEUD: THE STORY OF THE UNDERWOOD-HOLBROOK VENDETTA

(Squire Holbrook was the great-grandson of John Henry Holbrook of North Carolina. Squire's father, Robert Alford Holbrook moved back to Virginia, where Squire was born. Squire moved to Kentucky sometime around the Civil War.)

It was just at the close of the war that I first heard of the Underwoods, and met two of the boys, Jesse and Alfred. During my _____ I drifted about through the mountains, seeking an avenue of escape and late in November 1865, was at Hamilton's X Roads, Elliott county, Ky. One day shortly after my arrival, two young men mounted on mules and heavily armed were pointed out to me as "the Underwood boys," and I recollect the fact quite vividly now from recent events with which the name Underwood has been connected. When I saw them in Elliott county, the "war" was as yet a desultory skirmish. I think I made some inquiry as to who and what they were and was told that they were from Carter county, Ky., had been "home guards," in sympathy with the Union, and had distinguished themselves by several daring raids. Once they entered Maysville, Ky., from which this is written. There were thirty-five of them, and they rode into town in midday over the Flemingsburg pike. They sacked general stores and rode their horses right through one clothing house on the corner of Second and Market streets.

They were a large family, all were skilled in the use of firearms; all were brave and reckless, and it is not to be wondered that they made enemies. It was only a few days after the two brothers were pointed out to me at the X roads that Alfred Underwood, in particular, found the climate of Carter county unhealthy for him, and following the advice of the great Chapqua farmer-editor, "went West." It has been several times reported that he was dead, had been killed but it is pretty certain that he is alive and still a dangerous shot with the rifle and revolver. Some think that if he has not already returned to Kentucky, he soon will, to avenge the death of his kinsmen.

In 1867 or '68 Jesse Underwood became involved in a quarrel at Owingsville, Bath county. Old John Robinson's circus was playing in the town, and a large crowd was in attendance. Large quantities of Bourbon whisky were consumed, and it was in a bar-room that the quarrel began. Words led to threats, threats to blows, and the heat of passion he drew his revolver and fired, killing a young man named Trumbo. He has always said that he fired at another man, and had not the slightest intention of killing Trumbo, toward whom he bore no ill-feeling. During the excitement over the killing he escaped from the town and made his way to Carter county, where he "took the bush" and for a long time defied the authorities. Finally he slipped out of the State, and locating in Iowa remained there several years.

In the winter of 1877 John R. Taber and John Martin were arrested by the city marshal of Maysville, Ky., between that place and Cincinnati, charged with horse-stealing. Taber had at one time been a prosperous merchant in Hillsboro, Ky. A passion for whisky and cards soon swept away his property, however, and it is said that to procure the wherewithal to gratify these propensities he several times overstepped the bounds of law. In 1870 he settled in Morehead, the county seat of Rowan, and speedily making friends, was elected clerk of the circuit court. In 1874 he became famous in Kentucky by being charged with mutilating the records, of which he was custodian, in the interests of one of the present appellate judges. This charge hanging over his head caused his defeat at the next election. Shortly thereafter he became involved in a personal difficulty with a hotel proprietor in the town and was in consequence compelled to leave Morehead. It was while he was wandering around that the alleged crime of horse-stealing was committed. His companion, John Martin, was at the time of the arrest under indictment for killing a man named Blair, a brother of Martin's brother's wife, for which he was afterwards acquitted. Taber and Martin were admitted to bail and pending their trial went to Carter county, rented a few acres of land from one of the Underwood's and commenced hard work to raise a crop.

A short distance from where they were located lived a family named Stamper. One morning some horses belonging to the Stamper's were missing and Martin and Taber were charged with their theft. They denied the fact, and no positive proof being had against them they were not arrested. This did not satisfy the Stamper party, and they notified Martin and Taber to leave the country instantly, at the same time warning the Underwood's not to harbor them. Taber left at once and it is stated, is now in the West. Martin's wife was sick at the time and he did not go. His family were stopping with one of the Underwood's, who was a second time ordered to send John Martin away, the Stampers promising to provide for his wife until she could be removed. His host had now become alarmed and told Martin he could no longer entertain him.

George Lewis Underwood then invited Martin to come to his house which the latter did. A few days after the removal a similar notice was served upon George Lewis Underwood, which he disregarded. And shortly after he was shot from an ambush by a concealed murderer, the ball passing through his bowels and making a hole in his side through which all his food passed until his death last August. Then commenced the "Carter war." Elwin Underwood and John Martin "took to the bush," and two of the Stamper party were killed. One of the Underwood brothers and one of their partisans were also fired at from the bushes and killed. Armed bodies rode up and down the country or skulked among the hills and mountains, and that whole section was terrorized. The civil authorities were powerless to quell the tumult and Gov. McCreary ordered the militia to the spot to preserve order. The presence of the military seemed to intimidate the rioters and matters became quieter.

During all this blood-letting Jesse Underwood was in Iowa, but on learning the condition of affairs, he returned home to share the fate of his kindred. After matters had become quieted he determined to return to Iowa and was passing through Lewis county on his way out of the State when he was pursued by Hiram Worder, the sheriff, and a large body of citizens. Coming up with the erring man, they called upon him to surrender, but his reply was a defiant yell, and by the orders of the sheriff he was fired upon and several times wounded. Jesse returned the fire and killed a young man named Ruggles. he was finally secured and taken before a magistrate on the charge of murder. The examining court acquitted him on the ground that the pursuers had no warrant and the killing was done in self-defense. He was then taken to Bath county to be tried for killing young Trumbo years before. After an incarceration of several months in Owingsville jail he made his escape. It was often reported that he had left the State but he has ever since been skulking among the hills of Carter and Rowan counties, patiently awaiting an opportunity of revenge.

Sometime in June last Elvin Underwood, while at work in his cornfield was fired upon by a concealed assassin and instantly killed. Jesse swore at the time that when his brother George Lewis should die he would begin a war of extermination and would not desist until his enemies were all killed or driven from the State. On Sunday, August 24th, George Lewis Underwood was brought to the little cemetery about half a mile from Morehead, Rowan county, to be laid to rest, having never left his bed of pain since the cruel bullets struck him down in his manhood two years ago. All the clan came to see him laid away, and kneeling beside the grave swore with voices that trembled to avenge his death.

On Sunday, September 5th Squire V. Holbrook, who led the party which shot George Lewis Underwood went to a field near his house to catch some horses. He was accompanied by his son. The path to the field led through a dense undergrowth. Before he reached the field a rifle ball whistled through the air and he fell dead. The son turned to face the assassin and saw the handsome face of Jesse Underwood peering through the bushes. It quickly disappeared and the young man could find no further traces of his father's murderer. The news spread among the Holbrook faction and the next morning William Underwood, another of the brothers, and one who had never taken any part in the feud, was bushwhacked a short distance from his home and instantly killed.

I was in Grayson, the county seat of Carter, when the news of William's assassination reached me, and being provided with a good horse determined to ride over to "Fort Underwood" and learn if the report was a true one. I was provided with a letter of introduction to old George Underwood, and when near the "fort" came upon a body of armed men under a tree a short distance from the road examining the corpse of the murdered William Underwood. I dismounted and approaching the group inquired for George Underwood. An old gray-haired man, with but a single eye, limped toward me and I showed him the letter. He spelled out the contents and extended his hand.

"This is bad business, sir," she said, looking toward the spot where lay his murdered son."

"To shoot an innocent man, who never harmed man, woman or child in his life," interposed a young man, well dressed and heavily armed, who stepped toward us. "Billy never had anything to do with the trouble, and always tried to keep peace."" The new-comer paused a moment, and then slapping the stock of his rifle with his clinched hand, cried fiercely; "But, by God, they shall pay dearly for his death."

"This is my son Jesse," said the old man, and the young man grasped my hand heartily.

A pen picture of this noted outlaw, as I saw him that crisp autumn morning, bending over the body of his murdered brother and swearing vengeance on his murderers, may not prove uninteresting to the readers of the Free Press. Imagine then a man about thirty-five years of age, slender, not above medium height, a little stooped in his shoulders, keen-eyed, with a face smoothly shaved, except a heavy dark mustache, and hair worn long. Clothe this personage in a black Prince Albert coat, dark blue pantaloons tucked in his boot tops, a smoothly starched white shirt, standing collar and a neat black tie. Place on his head a soft slouch hat with the front rim turned down to shield the eyes. Buckle about his waist a stout belt, and hang from it two heavy Colt's "navy" revolvers. Put in his hands a Sharp's rifle at half-cock, his finger upon the hammer and the likeness is complete. He was a pleasant-mannered man, very gentlemanly, and talked without reserve about the terrible feud.

The old man Underwood seemed to be a shrewd, ready-witted man and invited me to visit him at the "fort," a rough log house, sitting right at the foot of the mountains, and surrounded all sides by dense forests. He told me he had never taken any part in the war, and did not fear for himself. I visited him at his castle and learned much of the history of the feud. It appears that for more than a generation there has been war between the Underwood's and their neighbors. Occasionally there would be a collision, resulting in the death of one or more of the participants. It is a wild country among those mountains, and the frequent occurrence of "shooting scrapes" has tended to educate these rough people to look upon such affairs with but little concern. The outside world has heard something of the wild life of these isolated mountaineers through the newspapers, but the most exaggerated accounts have failed to do the subject justice. Old George Underwood was a man of wonderful constitution. He told me that in the last twenty-five years he had been shot at and wounded a score of times and bared his body to show the proofs. Wounds in both legs, the right thigh, several parts of the body, the head and neck, and one eye shot out, and yet, in spite of this disabling, he was able to limp about with his rifle ever ready, and two navy revolvers belted around his waist, on the alert for his enemies.

Jesse stayed in the woods nearly all the time, and I saw but little of him, he visiting the "fort" only at night. Once, in speaking of the future and its possibilities he said: "I may be killed any day, but I shall die with a clear conscience, for this war has been forced upon me. I never wanted to fight but I can't stand by and see my brothers murdered without lifting my hand against the murders. We are not in the wrong. They murdered my brother George because he dared protect an innocent man and a sick woman."

The better class of citizens in the county with whom I talked in reference to the feud were almost unanimous in the opinion that the Underwood's were in the right, and had been hounded and persecuted by their enemies. It was evident to me that they were a family of brave men, and I always sympathize with bravery. I was at Grayson, the county seat of Carter on the 13th, when a man named Procter, living near the Underwood's, came to town the bearer of startling news. The old man Underwood was seriously injured and Jesse was shot and dying. It created considerable excitement, and it was not long before the arrival of other parties gave us full particulars.

On Friday afternoon, the 10th, old George Underwood stepped into his yard to get some firewood. As he was returning to the house he heard a cap snap and dropped the wood. As he did so some one fired from the bush and the ball took effect in the right shoulder and arm, inflicting a dangerous and painful wound. He fell, but recovering partially from the shock, succeeded in reaching the house. The women folks were immediately dispatched for a physician to dress the wound, but none would go the physicians in that part of the country having been ordered by the Holbrook faction not to render assistance to the Underwood's, or they would be considered friends to them, and dealt with in a summary manner. Neither physicians nor citizens would go to his aid for fear of being drawn into the war. The women dressed the poor man's wounds as best they could and dispatched word to Jesse who was in the woods. As soon as he heard of his father's condition, he hastened to his assistance only to receive a mortal wound through the lung, just as he was entering the door. He was fired upon from the mountain side, about one hundred yards distant, the ball passing entirely through his body. Messengers were again sent out for physicians and aid. The death warning from the Holbrook party prevented any one from going to them. Imagine if you can the agony of these frief stricken women and crying children, shut up in that gloomy log house with their wounded and expecting at any moment to have the house burnt over their heads or the door forced open and their father and brother murdered before their eyes? Early Sunday morning Jesse breathed his last, and at the moment of his death the cowardly enemy, secreted in the brush near by the house fired a salute of three guns. Not satisfied with preventing physicians from going to the aid of the wounded, the Holbrook party issued a general warning that whoever attempted to bring the dead body out of the house for burial should die as he had died.

I was obliged to leave for Morehead at night, and did not return until the next day at noon. I learned then that old George Underwood had sent to the judge of the county court, praying for protection and for assistance to bury his dead son. The message had arrived the day before, just after I left. Judge Warnock immediately made an order to cover the case and placed it in the hands of the sheriff. He hastily summoned a force of citizens to go with him and the deputies, and made arrangements to transport all the men who would go. So great was the dread of the Holbrook's, that when the time arrived to depart but two men responded. The sheriff was powerless.

Hearing that a farmer named Frank McFarren, living near Fort Underwood had expressed his willingness to go to the assistance of the besieged. I procured a horse and driver and rode out to the seat of war. Before I left, a gentleman handed me the following "notice" which had been sent to me in his care during my absence. The editor of a weekly paper in a neighboring town had been similarly "warned." I preserved the original as a memento, and send a copy verbatim ad literatim:

"Upper Tygart, Karter co., "Kentucky.

"Sir:---

"You ar hearby warn not to rite any more lies About the Holbrook party.
you hav bi this act made yourselve frendlee to the -----underwoods.
you are marked Man from this day, and will be Shot as was the Rest."

There was no signature to this delectable message, and I gave it little heed. I knew where McFarren lived and rode directly to his house. Only some frightened women were there, who begged me not to go to the "fort," as the Holbrook's had sworn "to kill me and the Independent man on sight." Frank McFarren---all honor to him as the only man in all the country who had shown the true spirit of a brave man---had gone over to the "fort" early in the evening, accompanied by his daughter Agnes, word having been brought to him that the old man had been killed too. Leaving my horse I walked over to the scene of death. Jesse's body had been buried near the house. When Mr. McFarren arrived it was in an advanced stage of decomposition, and old George had been dead since the night before. From one of the women who was in the house at the time, watching over the dead body of Jesse, I gleaned the following particulars of one of the most cowardly and brutal murders that ever disgraced a civilized commonwealth.

It seems that the night before a body of the Holbrook faction surrounded the house. They had blacked their faces to conceal their identity and demanded admittance, which was at first refused. They then held a consultation, and one of their number approached the door and asked for John Martin and Clarke White. They were told that they were not there. They then begged to be allowed to search the house, promising they would spare his life. This he at first refused to do, but consented at last, in deference to the wishes of the females in the house who were frightened nearly to death. They ordered him to pass out his gun, and he did so. Then the door was opened and fourteen or fifteen of the cowardly ruffians crowded into the house and began the search. They gathered up all the arms, consisting of an old sword, six guns, three bowie knives and several pistols. Then they showed their manliness by insulting the women and blaspheming the brave man who their cowardly bullets had killed, lifting the cloth from the dead face and making coarse jokes of which the swollen and decaying corpse was the butt. They remained about an hour, beguiling their time in this chivalrous manner. As they were preparing to depart, one of the ruffians asked old George to show them where he had been wounded. He leaned over to do so, and another of the party raised his gun and fired at the wounded, unarmed man. The ball took effect just above the right breast, and in twenty minutes thereafter the old veteran breathed his last.

I returned to Grayson the next morning early to find the country in a feverish excitement. Although the last of the Underwoods living in the State had been ruthlessly murdered, the old man has four sons living in the West, three in Illinois, and one (Alfred) somewhere in the remote West, beyond the Mississippi. They will be apt to take up the gauntlet and avenge their murdered father and brothers. It was reported before I left that Alfred was either on his way home or had already returned, and a renewal of hostilities is momentarily expected. The whole upper part of Carter county is in the possession of an armed body of outlaws and murderers, who have so terrorized the country that the civil authorities are paralyzed, and there is no telling what will be the end.



"Fort Underwood" at Dry Branch, near Olive Hill, Ky., nearly 100 years after the death of George Underwood.

A version of the **Hatfield-McCoy** feud took place in the westernmost section of Carter County and extended over into Lewis and Rowan counties. Called the Underwood War, it pitted the **Underwoods** against the **Holbrooks** and **Stampers**, and though the latter group followed its vow to pluck out the Underwoods, root and branch, everyone at the time came out

losers. There were many versions of the War printed in the local newspapers at the time. The Portsmouth Times of the day reported the following:

Writing from this distance, with only the colored stories of the friends of each clan to guide us, it is difficult to form a clear opinion as to which of the two warring families was to blame... Throughout all the years the **Holbrooks** and **Underwoods** have been committing murder the **Holbrooks** were as handy with the deadly weapons as the **Underwoods**...

In 1877, Boyd Countians read the following about the continuing feud:

Viewed in light of recent events, the neighboring county of Carter is highly suggestive to the uninitiated of general anarchy and confusion, a place where snakes stalk rampant and **Underwoods** and **Stampers** meet in deadly battle three times as day.

Pieced together here is a generally-accepted version of the War, following reports in contemporary newspapers, a compilation by **Coates**, and modern explorations by Ronald **Burchett** and Charles J. **Pelfrey**:

George **Underwood**, Virginian by birth, came to the upper reaches of Tygarts Creek about 1847, bringing with him his wife and four sons, Alfred, Jesse, Elvin, and George Lewis. Old George, born in 1810, was six feet tall, rawboned, squareshouldered, and inclined to be in fights at election time --a common practice. He was a Whig, a Union man, and a Republican, and those political attachments may have been more responsible for the friction than anything else.

The roots of the fight may have been planted before he arrived, for John **Stamper** and George **Penland** were in a court suit as early as 1845. But the ultimate sin of the **Underwoods**, or for which they were blamed, was one which they learned and practiced with vigor during the Civil War--the taking of horses. Alfred led a raid on Maysville during the war, pillaging residences and stores of Southern sympathizers while a provost guard (Union) looked the other way.

George had a strong reputation himself and made the newspaper often. In 1872, Big Sandy Herald reported him active at a meeting of Radicals (Republicans). Prior to that time, apparently, he

The Holbrook Farm between Dockery and Traphill, North Carolina has been placed on the *National Register of Historic Places*. Originally owned by William Spicer, the farm gained prominence in the community under the ownership of Joseph Samuel Holbrook (1842-1920). Joseph's grandfather, Randall was John Henry Holbrook's brother.

Description from the National Register Nomination Form

Located in a clearing surrounded by steep, wooded mountains in a remote section of Wilkes County, the Holbrook Farm Complex embodies the vernacular building traditions and evokes the quality of nineteenth century rural life in western North-Carolina. The exact date of construction and the first occupants of the dwelling are uncertain, but it appears likely, that the house--a traditional two-story frame structure embellished with simple Federal style trim was built for William and Jenny Bauguess Spicer in the 1820s. In the early 1870s the farm was purchased by Joseph Samuel Holbrook, a locally prominent businessman and farmer who was vigorously active in the civic, religious, and educational affairs of Wilkes County. At one point Holbrook's estate included 1,000 acres, and twenty-nine outbuildings of various functions surrounded the house; several of these outbuildings survive. The unspoiled character of the complex of log and frame buildings, the beauty of the setting, and the associations with a leading local figure make this a site important to Wilkes County and western North Carolina. The farm remains in the Holbrook family.



The Holbrook farm complex consists of a frame house, a log granary, a log spring house, a log smokehouse, a log corn crib, a frame barn, and a board-and-batten two-room school dormitory moved to the farm from the nearby community of Traphill. The farm is sited in a small clearing surrounded on all sides by forested mountains in a remote section of north Wilkes County.

At the west end of the complex is a large frame shed roof barn fronted on two sides by a deep shed porch; this barn dates from the early twentieth century and contains stables for livestock. Set across the road south of the house is a one-story gable roof frame structure, covered in board and batten and heated with a central stone chimney. According to the owners, the building served as a dormitory at the nearby Trap Hill

Institute, a Baptist school that operated in the late nineteenth century; J. S. Holbrook had served as chairman of the board of trustees for the school. The building was moved to its present location in the early twentieth century sometime after the school closed.

