

The Family and Descendants of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton

By Kyle J Wear

The original immigrants from Ireland of the Rodgers family of this sketch were Robert Rodgers and his wife Margaret Thornton. The early sources of this information on this family come from two sources: the first is an article from “Notes and Queries” Third Series Vol 3 pp 226-228 by William Henry Egle (1896) entitled “The Rogers Family of Hanover,” and the second source is a letter written by Zeno Campbell about his Rodgers’ ancestry to his daughter Darthula Omega Campbell dated May 1865. The “Notes and Queries” article stated that Robert Rodgers emigrated to America in 1733 and settled on the Swatara Creek in Hanover township of what was then Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania (current day Dauphin County). It further states that he and his family were members of the Old Hanover Church and that he died prior to 1750 and was buried in the church graveyard next to his wife.

According to the Zeno Campbell letter, Robert Rodgers the immigrant originated in Londonderry, Ireland and was the son of Robert Rodgers Sr and Annis Glenn. Family legend had stated that Robert Rodgers Sr had fought at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690:

“The first of my mother’s family that I have any knowledge of was Robert Rogers who lived in the North of Ireland. He was a young man and fought under William, Prince of Orange in the Battle of the Boyne, fought July the 1st 1690. He married Annis Glenn; Robert was a fair white man, as all the Rogers had hitherto been, but Annis Glenn gave them quite a different colour; many of them in the afterlife being quite dark skinned with black hair; hence among the Roger’s to this day they say of one of these black haired ones—he has got a dip of Annis. This same Robert had a son, Robert, I think, who married Margaret Thornton.”

Zeno Campbell was a great great grandson of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, but it is quite clear that he was proud of his heritage and much information was passed down in the oral family history. And indeed there is evidence to support the claim of Zeno Campbell about his ggg grandfather Robert Rodgers Sr. There is a list of “Officers of Londonderry and Enniskillen to receive three months pay in England, upon account, to enable them to return to Ireland,” dated 27 Feb 1690 that includes the name of Captain Robert Rogers.

In the letter of Zeno Campbell, he only recalled three of the sons of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton: Joseph, Hugh and Seth. Further research would prove that they had at least a total of seven children.

Here is what is known of his family:

Robert Rodgers	+	Margaret Thornton
b. ca 1670		b. ?
d. 1746 or 1753 (?) Hanover twp, Lancaster Co., PA		d. ?

Children:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1) Robert Rodgers | + | Elizabeth |
| b. ca 1693 | | b. |
| d. Nov 1745 Hanover, Lancaster, PA | | d. After 1745 |
| 2) Joseph Rodgers | + | Martha Poore |
| b. ca 1695 | | b. ? |
| d. Between 1746 and 1750 | | d. ca 1758 |
| 3) Hugh Rodgers | + | Margaret Kincaid |
| b. ca 1697 | | b. ? |
| d. 1758 Hanover, Lancaster, PA | | d. ? |
| 4) Agnes Rodgers | + | ?John or Samuel Hunter? |
| b. ca 1700 | | b. |
| d. 1759 Rowan Co., NC | | d. Before 1759 |
| 5) Seth Rodgers | + | Katherine |
| b. ca 1703 | | b. ? |
| d. 1758 Hanover, Lancaster, PA | | b. c. ca 1762 |
| 6) George Rodgers | + | Elisabeth |
| b. ca 1705 | | b. ? |
| d. Nov 1768 Augusta Co., VA | | d. Before 1768 |
| 7) Unknown daughter Rodgers | + | Unknown McCormick |
| b. ? | | b. ? |
| d. ? | | d. ? |

Children: Seth

Figure 1. The Family of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton

Zeno Campbell's letter was crucial in sorting out this family and he was quite uniquely situated to describe the families of Joseph Rodgers and Hugh Rodgers, sons of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, as he was a great grandson of both of these individuals. His maternal grandparents were John Rodgers (1720-1785), son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, and Martha Rodgers (1722-1785), daughter of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid—they were first cousins. Zeno Campbell's mother was Martha Rodgers (1760-1831) who had married Andrew Campbell (1755-1796) and was apparently quite proud of her heritage and told the stories of her Rodgers' ancestry on a regular basis. In fact, so much of the information from the Zeno Campbell letter had later been proven true independently that it is nearly regarded as canon.

This letter contains the only complete list of the children of both Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore as well as Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid.

Little is known of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton as individuals other than they were the original immigrants from Ireland and attended the Old Hanover Church. Even their birth and death dates are unknown—although they are reportedly buried in the Old Hanover Church graveyard, if they had headstones then they had not survived even to 1896 when William Henry Egle wrote his article on this family in “Notes and Queries.” However, in the book The Rogers Family of Hanover township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania by William Ressler Breidenthall (1976) a death date for Robert Rodgers is given as 1753—there is no source cited for this date. Also noted in this book is that Robert Rodgers had originated specifically in Limavady Parish in Londonderry, Ireland.

The earliest documentation of any member of the family of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton in the Lancaster Co., PA records is the land warrant of Seth Rodgers for 200 acres bearing the date of 5 Oct 1743 and was surveyed on 29 Nov 1743 (Pennsylvania Land Survey Book C169 p. 379):

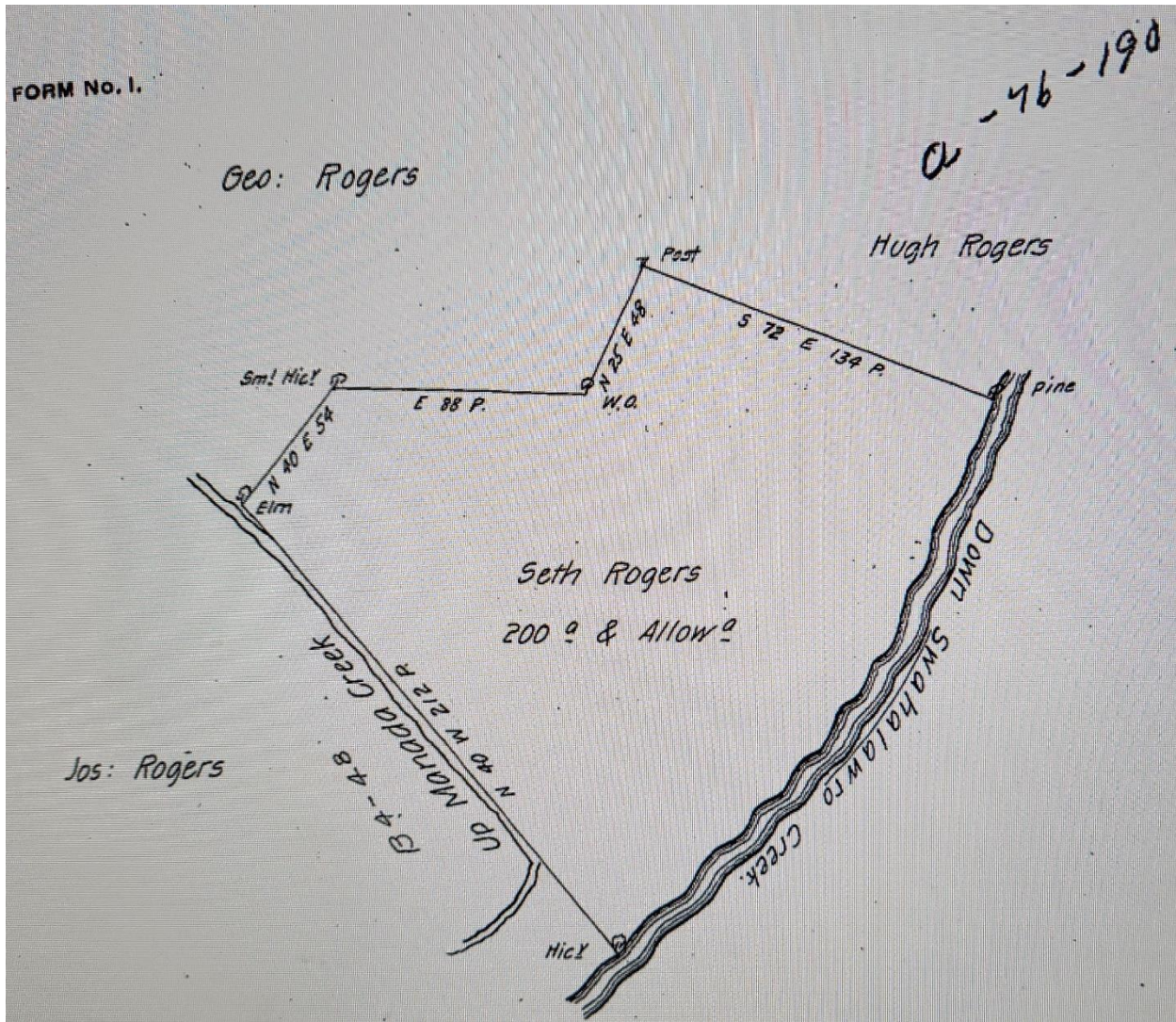


Figure 2. Survey Map of Seth Rodgers' land in Lancaster Co., PA. (Pennsylvania Land Survey Book C169 p. 379)

The survey map of Seth Rodgers' land clearly shows that his brother Joseph Rodgers' land was to the southwest on the other side of the Manada creek, his brother George Rodgers' land was northwest, and his brother Hugh Rodgers' land was to the northeast of his property. Only Seth Rodgers ever obtained a land warrant and ultimately patented his land.

It is important to note that in 1743 that the area that the Rodgers lived was in Hanover township. The tax lists which start in 1751 are divided into West Hanover and East Hanover because different tax collectors were responsible for each half. However, there was no formal division into East Hanover township and West Hanover township until 1769. The Rodgers are seen on the West Hanover township tax lists, but Manada Creek is actually the dividing line between modern East and West Hanover townships, so that Seth's land would technically have been in East Hanover township. When South Hanover township was formed in 1786, Seth Rodgers' land would actually lie in that new township.

The next major document that helped to sort out this family was the will of Robert Rodgers Jr, the son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, who died in 1745 and can be found in Lancaster Co., PA Will Book A on page 107:

“In the Name of God, I Robert Rogers, Junior, in the Township of Hanover, County of Lancaster and Province of Pennsylvania being Weak in body at this time, but though the Mercy of God of a sound mind, and Calling to Mind my Mortality, it being appointed to me and all men once to die, Do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament, that is to say. First of all, I recommend my Soul into the hand of God who give it. And as for my Body, I recommend to the Earth to be buried at the Discretion of my Executors in a Christian Manner; nothing Doubling, but that the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God. And as touching the Worldly estate it had pleased God to bless me with, I give, bequeath and dispose of in the following manner and form. First of all, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth my beloved Wife, I give and bequeath the plantation I now posses, to be enjoyed by her during life and disposed of by her in her life time or at her death, and does appoint and ordain that a Deed of the same shall be given to her by Robert Wallace according to writings agreed upon between him and me now in the custody of James Galbreath. Further, I bequeath to her the old gray Horse and the young bay racing Horse, and two Cows. Viz. the big Red Cow and the little Red Cow with their two calves and of Household furniture, the big Pot and the large pewthor Dish; and the half of all the rest of the Pether. Likewise, I appoint and bequeath to her the little boy James Wilson to serve her till he come to Age, and its hereby provided that if she die before he is of Age according to Law then and in that Case he is to be set free. To my Brother George Rogers I give and bequeath the young Gray Horse and a cow my brown Coat with my Cotton Jacket and Drawers. To my Brother Hugh I give and bequeath my half of the Plantation formerly possess by Charles M. Clure, as also the half of the Household furniture excepting the big Pot and Pewther Dish above mentioned, and I give to him my Second Coat. To my Brother Joseph Rogers I give and bequeath my big Coat and to his son Robert one year Old Heifer; and to his son John one year old Bull and a black Jacket. Lastly I appoint and ordain the other Cow and Sheep not yet disposed of, to be sold to discharge my funeral expenses. And I do herby make, constitute, and ordain James Harris and Robert Wallace Executors of this my last Will and Testament and does herby disallow evoch and disannul all and every former Testament; Wills and Legacies and Executors by me in any ways before this time named Willed and bequeathed, Ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament; In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this twentieth and fifth day of July, One Thousand Seven hundred and forty four.

Robert Rodgers (Seal attached)

Signed, Sealed published and Declared by me the said Robert Rogers as my last Will and Testament in the Presence of us underscribers. Robert Rodgers. Will Bertram.

Lancaster (Viz) 17th December 1745. Then personally appeared Robert Rogers Senior one of the Witnesses of the above written Will on his Oath did declare he was present and saw and heard Robert Rodgers Jun the Testator Sign Seal Publish and Declare the above writing to be

his last will and Testament, doing therefore he was of Sound Mind and Understanding to the best of his knowledge.

Before me. Tho. Cookson

Lancaster (Viz) 17th December 1745. Then personally appeared Rev. M. William Bartram one of the Witnesses of the above written Will on his Oath did declare he was present and heard Robert Rodgers Jun the Testator Sign Seal Publish and Declare the above writing to be his last will and Testament, doing therefore he was of Sound Mind and Understanding to the best of his knowledge.

Before me. And. Galbrieth”

It is interesting to note that Robert Rodgers Sr proved the will in court, so the patriarch was clearly still living on 17 Dec 1745. The will stated that Robert Rodgers Jr was married and had a wife named Elizabeth, but they had no children. So the residue of his estate was bequeathed to other family members. Although it had known that Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton had had sons named Seth, Hugh and Joseph from the Zeno Campbell letter, the will of Robert Rodgers Jr also identified another son named George Rodgers. The will also identifies two sons of Joseph Rodgers—Robert and John [Note: this John Rodgers was the grandfather of Zeno Campbell] who appear to be adults at the writing of the will. The administrator of the will was Robert Wallace. There is no relationship stated in the will, but apparently, they had been involved in land transactions together. In fact, he makes this statement in the will:

“I give and bequeath to Elizabeth my beloved Wife, I give and bequeath the plantation I now posses, to be enjoyed by her during life and disposed of by her in her life time or at her death, and does appoint and ordain that a Deed of the same shall be given to her by Robert Wallace according to writings agreed upon between him and me now in the custody of James Galbreath.”



Figure 3. 1816 Plat Map of a section of South Hanover Township.

The above plat map of a section of South Hanover township shows where Seth Rodgers' land was in relationship to Robert Wallace, the executor of the will of Robert Rodgers Jr. The property that Robert Rodgers had purchased from Robert Wallace as stated in the will is noted in the above map. This can be proven by reviewing the survey map of the property of William

Wilson. William Wilson had warranted his land in 1737 but he had died in 1738 intestate and the land was eventually divided between his two sons, James and Hugh. The below map shows the partition of his land that was surveyed on 26 March 1746 (Pennsylvania Land Survey Bk C224 p. 379 & 405). It depicts Robert Rodgers' property as being to the southwest:

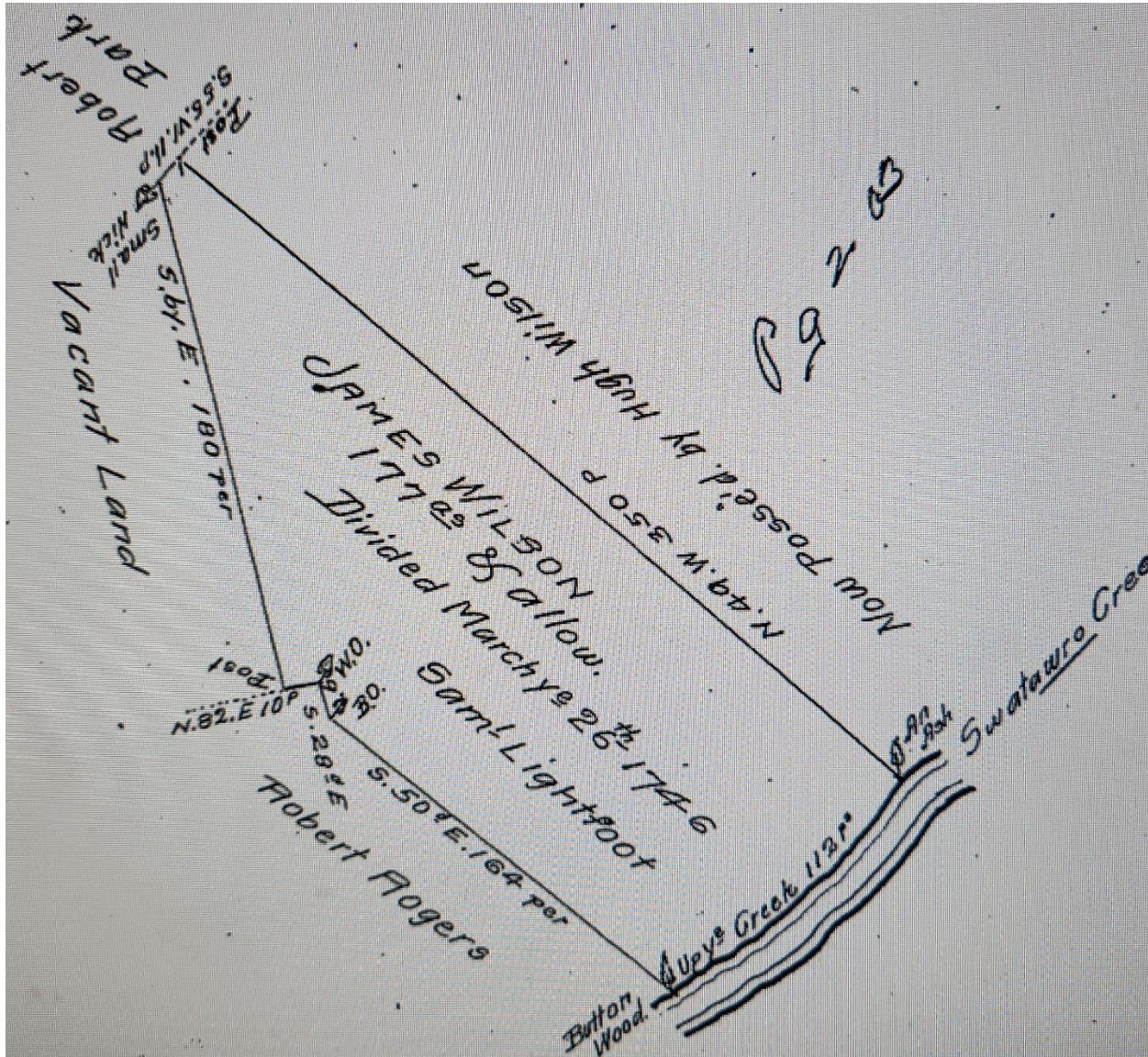


Figure 4. Land survey showing the division of William Wilson's land between his sons Hugh and James Wilson 1746 (Pennsylvania Land Survey Bk C224 p. 379 & 405). Robert Rogers Jr.'s land is the SouthWest of James Wilson.

This survey also identifies who the boy James Wilson was that was a servant to Robert Rodgers in the will. The will specifically stated that if his wife died before James Wilson came of age then he was to be set free. Some researchers have interpreted this as meaning that he was a slave. However, it seems much more likely after looking at the plat map that James Wilson was apprenticed to Robert Rodgers—an apprentice would have been freed of his duties upon

reaching the age of either 18 or 21. Apprenticeships were frequently done in lieu of foster parenting when the individual's parents were dead. William Wilson had died in 1738; so it appears that James Wilson was bonded to Robert Rodgers Jr so that he and his wife served as foster parents to the young boy and could also teach him a trade. The will was written in 1744, but James Wilson came of age by 1746 and was then able to receive a share of his father's land.

However, it is also clear that Robert Rodgers Jr had other land that he had obtained jointly with his brother Hugh Rodgers. His will states:

“To my Brother Hugh I give and bequeath my half of the Plantation formerly possest by Charles M. Clure”

Hugh Rodgers' land was identified as being northeast of Seth Rodgers' land on the 1743 survey. This land was ultimately warranted by William Trousdale (land warrant 77 on the map in East Hanover twp) in 1765 and patented in 1766. Please note that immediately north of this property is the land of Francis McClure that was warranted in 1765 and patented in 1766—he is undoubtedly of some relation to Charles McClure who had the original land claim to that area. It would appear that Robert Rodgers Jr had helped his brother Hugh Rodgers obtain that land claim prior to his death and then had the land claim formally deeded to Hugh Rodgers posthumously. This property can be seen on the below plat map of East Hanover township (from 1816):

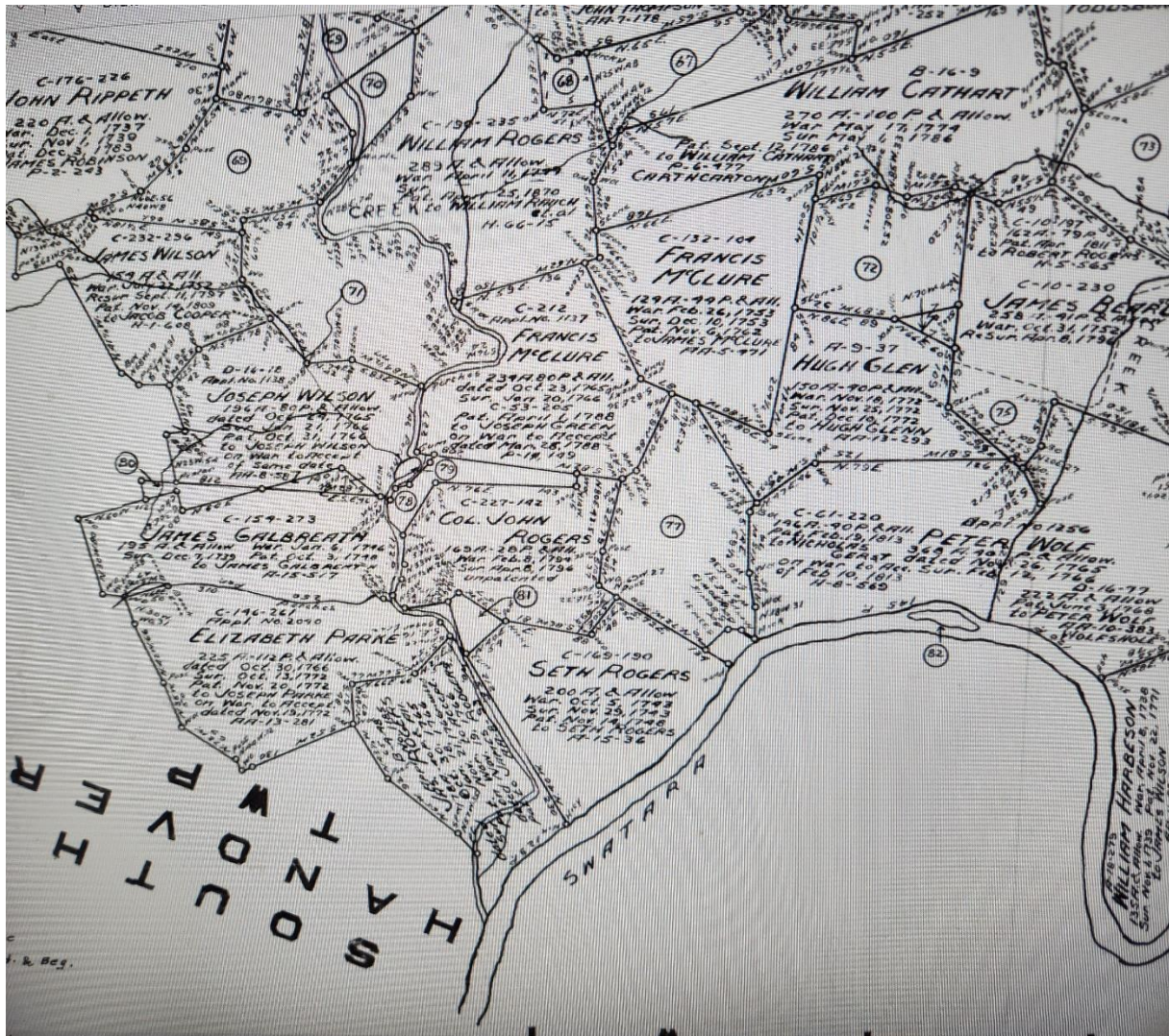


Figure 5. 1816 Plat map showing land warrant 77 North East of Seth Rogers land

The next major document that helped to sort out the family of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton in the Pennsylvania records was the will of Seth Rodgers (Lancaster Co., PA Will Book B p. 243-244):

“In the Name of God Amen. October 3, 1757 I Seth Rogers of Hanover township of Lancaster County being sick and weak of body but of perfect mind and memory, Thanks be given unto God therefore and calling to mind that it is appointed for all men to dye do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament (that is to say) principally and first of all I surrender my soul into the Hands of God who gave it to my body. I recommend to the Earth to be buried in a Christian-like & decent manner at the discretion of my Executors hereinafter mentioned, nothing doubting my receiving the same again at my general Resurrection by the mighty power of God, and as for such worldly Estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this Life I give, dispose and bequeath the same in the following manner and Form. First, to

Katherine Rogers, my beloved wife, I bequeath the one half of all my moveables as also her bed and chest and clothing and the one half of my plantation during her natural life, also to my Brother Hugh Rogers the one half of my body clothes and Five Pounds money. Also, to my brother George Rogers the other half of my body clothes and Five Pounds money, also to my nephew Robert Rogers—son to said Hugh Rogers—Twenty-Five Pounds, also to my nephew John Rogers—son to said Hugh Rogers—Twenty-Five Pounds, also to Robert Rogers and Seth Rogers—sons to my brother George Rogers—Twenty-Five Pounds apiece, also to my nephew Seth Rogers two thirds of my plantation, excepting what is above to my wife already willed, also to my nephew Robert Rogers one third of my plantation excepting also what is above willed to my wife. This article is to Hugh Rogers’ son, also to my nephew Robert Rogers in Carolina Ten Pounds, also to my nephew William Rogers, son to Joseph Rogers, Ten Pounds, also to my sister’s son Robert Hunter Ten Pounds, also to Seth McCormick Five Pounds, also to Frances Wilson in Carolina Five Pounds. But in case that the part of my Estate not willed to my wife exclusive of my lands amount to more than One Hundred and Fifty Pounds, then the above moneys are to be increased in proportion, and in case the said half not willed to my said wife do not equal One Hundred and Fifty Pounds, then the above Sums of money to be diminished in proportion to what is above mentioned. Also, I appoint my wife Katherine Rogers and Brother Hugh Rogers the only Executors of this my Last Will and Testatment, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament.

In the presence of,

James Wilson

Seth Rogers

James Walker

Signed, Sealed, published and declared by the within named Seth Rogers as his last Will and Testament in the presence of James Wilson and James Walker. Lancaster County June 9, 1758.

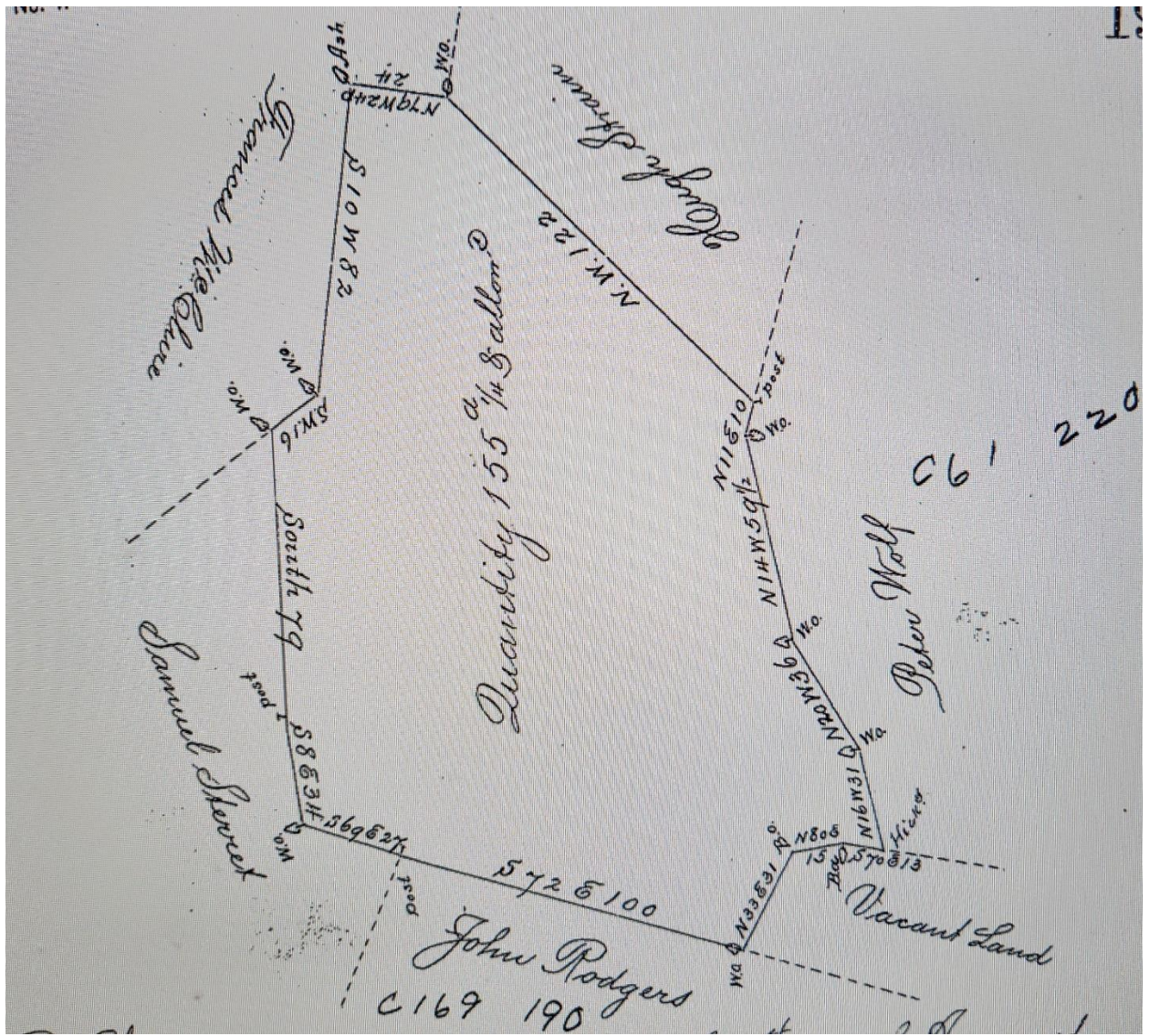
From the will of Seth Rodgers, it is clear that he and his wife did not have any children. He left a legacy to his two living brothers at that time—George and Hugh—but does not mention his brother Joseph. This could imply that Joseph Rodgers (Seth’s brother) was already deceased. However, Seth Rodgers goes on to give money to Robert and John Rodgers (sons of his brother Hugh Rodgers), Robert and Seth Rodgers (sons of his brother George Rodgers), William Rogers (son of his brother Joseph Rodgers), Robert Hunter (Seth’s sister’s son), Seth McCormick (no relationship stated) and Frances Wilson (no relationship stated). Two of his relatives are identified as being in “Carolina”—Robert Rodgers (Hugh’s son) and Frances Wilson. A period of migration of the various Rodgers was starting to take place by the late 1750’s. Also note that the will of Robert Rodgers Jr from 1745 had identified that his brother Joseph Rodgers had sons named Robert and John.

This is where the Zeno Campbell letter really helped to sort out who the different family members were. In the letter, Zeno Campbell said the following about the family of his original ancestors, Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton:

“They (Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton) had three sons: Joseph, Seth, and Hugh who all came to America and settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Joseph’s wife was Martha Pore (?), and Hugh’s Margaret Kincaid; Joseph raised five sons and four daughters—John, Robert, William, George and Joseph; the daughters were Martha (who married James Barnett), Fanny (who married Zaccheus Wilson), Margaret (who married James James), and Elizabeth (who married James Black). They all came to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina and raised numerous family—Hugh and Peggy (“Margaret”) Kincaid raised three sons: John, Robert and Hugh; and four daughters—Martha (who married John Rogers), Fanny (who married Robert Walker); Marjory (who married Edward Erwin); and Sarah (who married John Caruthers); all these came to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina and raised quite numerous family, and have spread from thence over all the western states.”

Zeno Campbell was not infallible—he had presumed that his great grandfathers, Joseph Rodgers and Hugh Rodgers had come to Mecklenburg Co., North Carolina in the 1750’s. This has been proven incorrect. Hugh Rodgers, son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, had died in 1758 in Hanover township—his estate record is amongst the loose paper files at the Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Historical Society. It also seems likely that Zeno’s ancestor Joseph Rodgers (whose wife was Martha Poore) also died in Pennsylvania. However, the importance of this letter cannot be understated. It provides a complete list of the children of both Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid as well as Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore.

The information from the Zeno Campbell letter now identifies who Frances Wilson was that was identified in the will of Seth Rodgers (d. 1758) “, also to Frances Wilson in Carolina Five Pounds”—she was the daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore who had married Zaccheus Wilson. This is important because the knowledge that Frances Rodgers, daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, had moved to North Carolina by the writing of Seth Rodgers’ will in 1757 also helps to identify another child of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. A will has been found for Agnes Hunter in Rowan Co., NC (will book A, p. 69) that was written 12 Aug 1759 and was executed in court in January 1760—this will was witnessed by Zaccheus Wilson. The will does not mention a son named Robert Hunter (as identified in Seth Rodgers’ will) but only two daughters—Mary, wife of Benjamin Starrat, and Catherine, wife of David Kerr. Benjamin Starrat was appointed the administrator of the estate. With Zaccheus Wilson being such a unique name and knowing that Frances Rodgers, wife of Zaccheus Wilson, was clearly in North Carolina by 1757, it seems a near certainty that this is the same individual who witnessed the will of Agnes Hunter (d. 1759). Also, Benjamin Starrat (aka Sterrett) was the son of Samuel and Margaret Sterret of Hanover twp, Lancaster Co., PA who had purchased the land claim of George Rodgers, son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, which was adjacent the original land survey of Seth Rodgers.



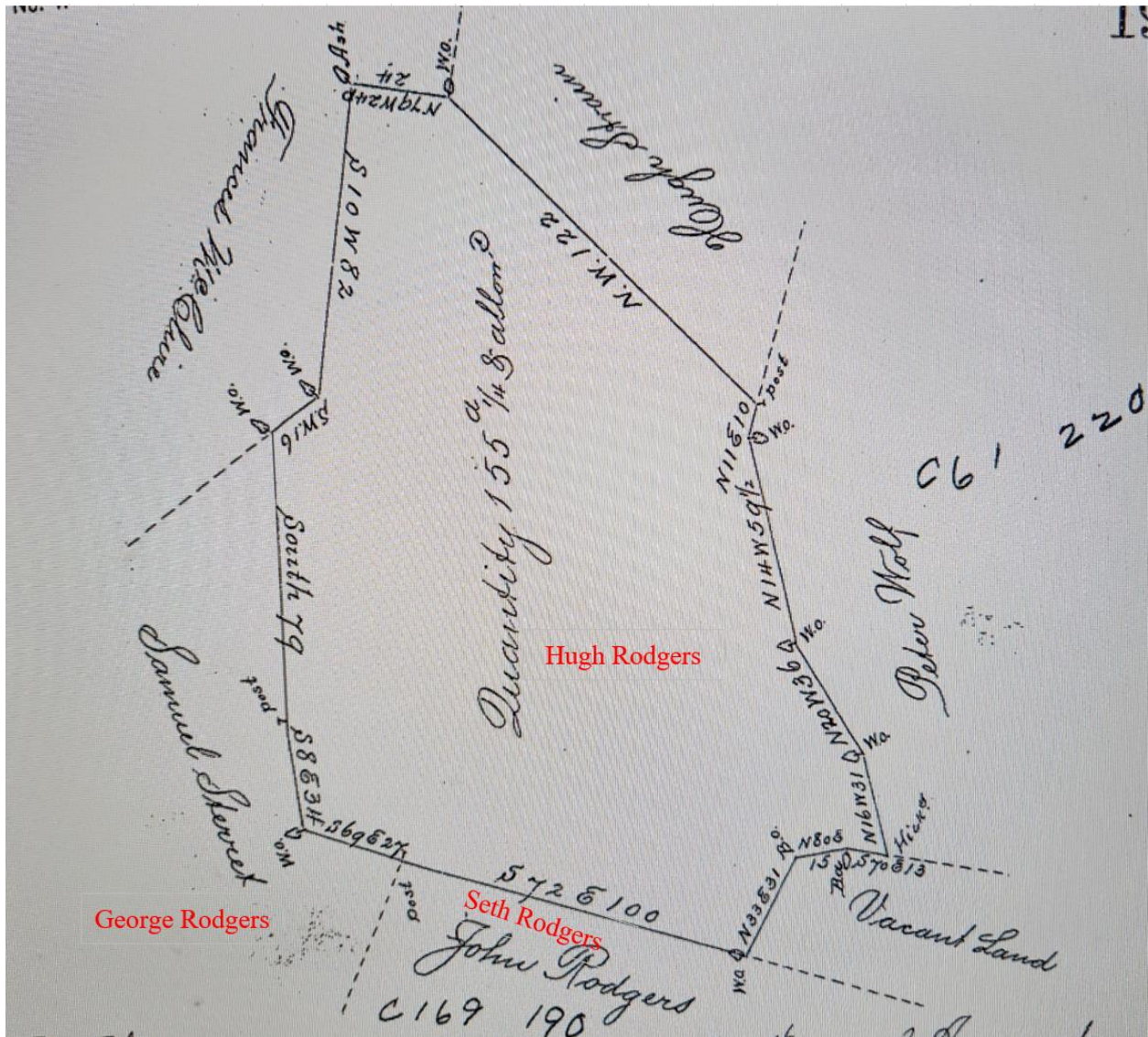


Figure 6. Land survey of William Trousdale 1765 (Pennsylvania Land Survey Book A76 p. 382). (Names added in red for reference back to the original land survey of Seth Rodgers)

The above map (fig. 6) shows the survey of the land of William Trousdale dated 5 Nov 1765 (Pennsylvania Land Survey Book A76 p. 382)—this represents the original land claim of Hugh Rodgers, son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, that is originally seen on Seth Rodgers’ survey of 1743. The land that was patented to Seth Rodgers is now under the ownership of a John Rodgers is seen being due south of William Trousdale’s land. Samuel Sterret’s land is seen to the southwest of William Trousdale’s land and west/northwest of John Rodgers’ land. The land that is occupied by Samuel Sterret was the land claim of George Rodgers, son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, as noted on Seth Rodgers’ survey of 1743. Since it is known that Seth Rodgers (d. 1758) had a sister who was the mother of a Robert Hunter, this would seem to make it a near certainty that the Agnes Hunter who died in 1759 in Rowan Co., NC was a daughter of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. It is thought that her son Robert Hunter likely died in North Carolina in 1758 or 1759 and thus was not mentioned in her will.

Unfortunately, the husband of Agnes Rodgers Hunter, is not known with certainty. There is an inventory and appraisal in Lancaster Co., PA from 1756 for a John Hunter who had a widow named Agnes. Unfortunately, none of the other names noted on this inventory and appraisal match known neighbors of the family of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. So it is unclear if this represents the husband of Agnes Rodgers. There is no Hunter seen on the tax lists for Hanover or Derry townships in 1751. There is a Samuel Hunter seen on a 1754 petition for the Paxtang Presbyterian Church that many Rodgers attended that represents a possible husband to Agnes Rodgers, daughter of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton.

The only other unidentified individual from the will of Seth Rodgers (d. 1758) is Seth McCormick. There is no relationship stated in the will. However, since the only other unidentified individual from the will was Frances Rodgers Wilson (wife of Zaccheus Wilson) who has been proven to have been a niece of Seth Rodgers, it seems likely that Seth McCormick was a nephew. On the 1751 West Hanover twp tax list there is a John McCormick who is listed near known neighbors of the Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton family. John McCormick is also seen on the 1754 petition for the Paxtang Presbyterian Church along with the Rodgers family. Although this John McCormick seems a likely candidate for the individual who had married a daughter of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, no further identifying information has been found that has been able to progress this research.

One last point can be brought out by the processing of the will of Seth Rodgers (d. 1758). He had left 2/3 of his property not deeded to his wife to his nephews Robert and Seth Rodgers, sons of Seth's brother George Rodgers. On 12 Mar 1762, there is an entry into the Lancaster Co., PA Orphans Court Docket (Book 1760-1763, p. 111-112) where Seth Rodgers, son of George Rodgers, was 14 years old or older and identified as being from Augusta Co., Virginia. Seth Rodgers chose a man named John Rodgers as his guardian and then collected 25 pounds sterling for the sale of the aforementioned land. On the survey map of William Trousdale just shown from 5 Nov 1765, it is clear that it was this John Rodgers who had purchased the land of Seth Rodgers, as it was due south of William Trousdale (previously Hugh Rodgers' land claim). There is no deed in Lancaster County that documents this land sale, so this Orphans Court Docket appears to have served as the legal transaction.

It is clear that by the late 1750's that some migration of the Rodgers families had taken place, but can the timeframe be narrowed further? The earliest complete tax list for the area that would become Dauphin Co., PA is the 1751 list which comprises East and West Hanover, Upper and Lower Paxtang, and Derry townships. The tax list for West Hanover township shows the Rodgers and other associated families:

Jas. Rodgers 3 6	[15 entries]
Seth Rodgers 4 6	John McCormick 3 0
Hugh Rodgers 3 0	[4 entries]
Sam'l Starat 3 0	Robt. Park 3 6

Widow Rodgers 9 0

Jas. Park 3 6

[3 entries]

Hugh Willson 2 0

Matthew Thornton 3 6

Jas. Willson 3 6

Wm. Rodger 3 6

Robt. Wallace 3 6

Reviewing this list and comparing with the other documents and plat maps of the area, it is clear that these Rodgers represent the known family of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, but there are also other Rodgers not yet identified. George Rodgers, son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, is notably missing. And Samuel Starat is listed immediately next to Hugh Rodgers—he was known to have ultimately warranted the land that was originally claimed of George Rodgers. Now that it is known that George Rodgers had migrated to Augusta Co., VA, it appears that this event took place prior to 1751. Indeed, amongst the deed records of Augusta Co., VA is this record:

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 2, p. 621: 28th February, 1749. William Beverley to George Rodger (Rodgers), 540 acres in Beverley Manor. Corner George Anderson; Cathey's River; Christie's Creek; Hamilton's corner; James Crawford's corner. Consideration paid 28th February, 1741. Teste: George Pine, James Moffett.

George Rodgers had moved to Augusta Co., VA and purchased 540 acres from William Beverly in 1749 and then had to pay the quit rent dating back to 1741 for the land to clear title. Samuel Sterrett had been living on George Rodgers' land claim since at least 1751.

The 1751 list shows Seth and Hugh Rodgers, but where is Joseph Rodgers, son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton? William Henry Egle had presumed in his "Notes and Queries" article on "The Rodgers Family of Hanover" that Joseph Rodgers had already migrated to North Carolina by 1751. However, it can be proven that this is incorrect. In fact, the most likely explanation is that Joseph Rodgers had died by 1751. There is a "Widow Rodgers" listed on the 1751 tax list that is paying 9 shillings and zero pence. This early tax list did not have a separate land tax, so the composite tax represented the personal property tax of each male as well as the land. William Henry Egle presumed that the "Widow Rodgers" was the wife of Robert Rodgers Jr who had died in 1745. But Robert Rodgers had relinquished his claim to his half of his brother Hugh's land in the will and the only land that would have been inherited by his wife was that which had been purchased of Robert Wallace (the executor of the will)—a total of 200 acres. Seth Rodgers had had his land patented by 1748—a total of 200 acres—and yet he was only paying 4 shillings 6 pence for his personal property tax and land. The Widow Rodgers was paying twice the amount of Seth Rodgers. It would make no sense that this was the widow of Robert Rodgers Jr since she had no adult children in the household. Also, the land survey for Elizabeth Parke (widow of Robert Park) from 1766 clearly shows that the land that had been owned by Robert Rodgers had reverted back to Robert Wallace by that date. It is clear that the widow of Robert Rodgers Jr had sold that land back to Robert Wallace at some point, but it is not clear when that occurred. Looking at the 1751 tax list which shows Robert Wallace immediately next to Hugh Wilson and James Wilson, the sons of William Wilson, would suggest that the land

owned by Robert Rodgers Jr had reverted back to Robert Wallace by 1751. However, it is known from the will of Robert Rodgers Jr (d. 1745) that he had left items to his nephews Robert and John Rodgers, sons of his brother Joseph—they appear to have been adults at the writing of the will. It is known that John Rodgers, son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, was born about 1720. The most likely explanation is that the Widow Rodgers listed on the 1751 list is that she was (Martha Poore) the widow of Joseph Rodgers, son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton—she had at least one adult son (and possibly two) living with her in 1751 and this would have explained the exorbitant tax she was paying.

Further proof can be found that the family of Joseph Rodgers was still in Hanover township from the early to mid 1750's. During the "schism" of the Presbyterian Church during the 1740's and 1750's of the Old Light and New Light philosophies, the Donegal diocese did not appoint new ministers to churches that had lost their pastors. The Old Hanover Church that the Rodgers family had originally attended had no regular minister from 1745 until 1760. As a result, they started attending the Paxtang Presbyterian Church which also had lost its minister in 1754. This created a problem as there were no Presbyterian ministers to perform marriages or christenings during this time frame. The result was that people wanting to get married had to solicit a minister from any denomination that was willing to perform the ceremony. The Rev. John Casper Stoever was a German Lutheran minister who traveled around Old Lancaster County from 1730 to 1779, and during the schism he performed a number of marriages of individuals who were known to be Presbyterian. He kept meticulous records of his marriages and baptisms where he scrupulously identified where each event took place. A book has been published of his journals entitled Records of Rev John Casper Stoever: Marriage and Baptismal 1730-1779 by Franklin Jacob Foegel Schantz (1896). This book contains several Rodgers marriages that occurred in Hanover township:

Oct. 13, 1747 James Barnet of Conecocheiague and Martha Rogers, Hanover.

June 28, 1754 William James and Margaretha Rogers, Hanover.

Oct. 7, 1756 James Black, of Derry, and Elizabetha Rogers, Hanover.

From the Zeno Campbell letter, it is known that Martha Rodgers, daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, had married James Barnett and Elizabeth Rodgers, daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, had married James Black. This presents proof that at least some of the family of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore had remained in Hanover township of Old Lancaster County until at least 1756. In fact, this evidence is so strong that this author believes that the above record identifies one of the rare errors of Zeno Campbell—he had stated that Margaret Rodgers, daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, had married James James, but the marriage record of Rev. John Casper Stoever of William James to Margaretha Rogers (both of Hanover) dated 28 Jun 1754 corrects this error—the name of Margaret Rodgers husband was indeed William James, not James James.

Further supporting evidence that the family of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore remained in Hanover township through the mid 1750's can be found in The History of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, Pennsylvania by Evans and Peck (1883) which contains an excerpt on the history of

the Paxtang Presbyterian Church. On 26 Sep 1754, a petition was signed by the members of the Paxtang Church to the Donegal Diocese asking for a minister. Included on this list were the names of James Rodgers, Hugh Rodgers, Widow Rodgers, Seth Rodgers, Hugh Wilson, James Wilson, Samuel Hunter, and John McCormick. The 1754 tax list does not exist, but this petition serves as a surrogate. Assuming that the Widow Rodgers on the 1751 tax list was indeed Martha Poore Rodgers, wife of Joseph Rodgers, then she was still living in 1754 and likely had much of her family still living with her.

The next available tax list for Hanover township is 1756:

East End:	Mathias Poor	1s 0p	
	John Rodgers	6s 0p	Freeman
West End:	Joseph Wilson	1s 6p	
	John McCormick	1s 0p	
	Henry McCormick	1s 9p	
	Widow Parks	1s 0p	
	[19 entries]		
	Widow Rodger	1s 0p	
	Seth Rodger	2s 3p	
	Samuel Starat	2s 0p	
	Hugh Rogers	4s 6p	
	William Rogers	1s 6p	
	[4 entries]		
	Mathew Thornton	1s 6p	
	Francis McClure	2s 0p	
	William Roger	2s 0p	

This tax list is more sophisticated than the 1751 list in that it includes freeman—or men of 21 years of age who are not married. It is also clear that all adult males are listed in 1756 even if they are in the household of a parent. Now it is known for certain that the oldest children of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore are not in Hanover township. Robert and John Rodgers, the older sons of Joseph Rodgers who were mentioned in the will of Robert Rodgers Jr (d. 1745), appear to have moved to North Carolina by the 1756 tax list and the fact that they do not sign the petition from the Paxtang Presbyterian Church in 1754 suggests that they had probably migrated by this date.

But the Widow Rodgers is still listed on the 1756 and 1757 tax lists suggesting that Martha Poore, the widow of Joseph Rodgers, was still alive. Her daughter Elizabeth Rodgers married James Black in Hanover township on 7 Oct 1756, so at least some of the family was still there by this date. In the will of Seth Rodgers (d. 1758), there is also a legacy given to William Rodgers, son of Joseph Rodgers. The 1756 tax list shows two different William Rodgers so it seems highly likely that one of these individuals was the son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore. All combined, this evidence seems to suggest that the Widow Rodgers seen on the 1751, 1756, and 1757 tax lists as well as the Paxtang Church petition from 1754 was indeed Martha Poore, widow of Joseph Rodgers. The next available tax list for Hanover township is for 1759 and the Widow Rodgers no longer appears, so it is likely that she died about 1758.

From the analysis of the family of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, it appears that all of their sons died in Hanover township of Old Lancaster County in Pennsylvania except for George Rodgers who had migrated to Augusta Co., VA by 1749. Robert Rodgers Jr had died in 1745, Joseph Rodgers had died sometime between 1746 and 1750, Seth Rodgers and Hugh Rodgers had both died in 1758. Agnes Rodgers Hunter had migrated with her children to Rowan Co., NC where she died in 1759. George Rodgers lived until November 1768 when he died in Augusta Co., Virginia. Another daughter of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton had likely married a McCormick but further information is lacking. This comprises what is known of the family of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton with certainty.

Identifying other Rodgers families in Hanover Township

One thing that has become clear from evaluating the various records in Hanover township is that there were other Rodgers families living there that did seem to interact with the family of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. A William Rodgers entered two land warrants in Hanover township—the first was dated 12 Apr 1744 for 200 acres and the second was dated 19 June 1745 for 200 acres. This was in the same timeframe that Seth Rodgers had entered his land in 1743 and was not far away—on the other side of the land of Francis McClure’s land that bounded Hugh Rodgers’ land claim. William Rodgers died in 1759 intestate. His widow Frances Rodgers and her son James Rodgers applied for an administration bond on 2 May 1759; John Hays and James McClure provided surety.

By 1771, Frances Rodgers, the widow of William Rodgers, had died and two of the children, Andrew Rodgers and Jeremiah Rodgers, purchased the rights to the land from the other heirs (Lancaster Co., PA Deed Bk O pp. 362-363). The heirs of William Rodgers are as follows:

James Rodgers and his wife Florence

Jean Crain, wife of George Crain

William Rodgers

Richard Rodgers

Margaret Sturgeon, wife of Samuel Sturgeon

Frances Rodgers

Ann Rodgers

Andrew Rodgers

Jeremiah Rodgers

The 1759 West Hanover township tax list shows the following Rodgers:

Ketron Rogers	100 ½ acres	3s 9p
John Rogers	100 ½ acres	1s 9p
Adam Roger	80 ½ acres	1s 9p
[2 entries]		
Gorge Rogers	100 ½ acres	3s 9p
James Rogers	200 acres	5s 0p

It must be pointed out that by 1759 that all of the known descendants of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton had either already died in Pennsylvania or had left the colony. The only other known Rodgers family in Hanover township in 1759 would have been the family of William Rodgers who had just died. James Rodgers was almost certainly the eldest son of William Rodgers. He is seen on the 1751 tax list of West Hanover township in the midst of the family of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton's children. But he is also seen on the 1756 and 1757 tax lists with no land. However, on the 1759 tax list he is seen with 200 acres of land. Looking at Figure 3, the plat map of South Hanover township of this article, one can see that James Rodgers had warranted the land that had originally been claimed by Joseph Rodgers, son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, as seen on the original survey of Seth Rodgers land in 1743 (fig. 2). It was warranted on 30 Oct 1765 and patented on 21 Nov 1766. After the Widow Martha Poore Rodgers had died, undoubtedly the children of Joseph Rodgers who were still in Hanover township about 1758 sold the rights of the land claim to James Rodgers who then went on to warrant the land.

But despite the death of William Rodgers Sr in 1759, the taxes still needed to be paid on his land. The total number of acres of land being paid taxes in 1759 by the other four Rodgers was 384 acres of land. Although technically by the two land warrants obtained by William Rodgers in 1744 and 1745 he should have had 400 acres of land, surveying errors were very common in the colonial era. 384 acres is very close to 400 and would seem to provide strong evidence that Ketron, John, Adam and George Rodgers were in fact the sons of William Rodgers. The real question is why these names are not seen amongst the heirs of William Rodgers on the 1771 deed transaction. Unfortunately, there are no tax lists after 1759 for West Hanover township until 1771—that list shows Jeremiah Rogers, John Rogers, James Rogers and William Rogers.

The question at this point is “Who was William Rodgers?” It is unknown when he was born, but his eldest son was an adult in 1751 and by the time of his death he had at least four adult sons. Several of his children are buried in the Old Hanover Church graveyard. James Rodgers died in 1790 and is buried there. His tombstone is a double tombstone—it has information about James Rodgers Sr who died April 18, 1790 aged 55 years, but it also has information on his son James Rodgers Jr who died May 16th, 1823 aged 55 years. It is clear that this tombstone was created after the death of James Rodgers Jr in 1823. And since it is clear that James Rodgers Sr was seen on the 1751 tax list he had to have been born by 1730—the error on the stone was likely because of the passage of over 30 years between the death of the father and the death of the son. Andrew Rodgers died September 19, 1789 aged 36 years. William Rodgers Jr, son of William Rodgers Sr., died October 1802 (no age or birthdate given), but his wife's tombstone is next to his—Jane Rodgers, wife of William Rodgers, died March 29, 1822 aged 68 years. It is clear that William Rodgers Sr. had children over at least a twenty year span starting in 1730.

It has been speculated that William Rodgers Sr was the son of Joseph Rodgers (s/o Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton). Seth Rodgers (d. 1758) does leave a legacy to his nephew William Rodgers, son of his brother Joseph, in his will. Although it is true that the birth year of Joseph Rodgers is not known, his son John Rodgers is clearly one of his oldest children (if not the oldest child) and was born about 1720. Frances Rodgers (daughter of Joseph Rodgers and

Martha Poore) who married Zaccheus Wilson is also thought to have been born 1718-1720. William Rodgers Sr would have had to have been born at least ten years before that date to have been the father of James Rodgers who was born about 1730. Although possible, it does strain credulity. And considering the 1756 tax list of West Hanover township shows two William Rodgers, it seems more likely that this second William Rodgers was more likely to have been the son of Joseph Rodgers. William Rodgers Jr, son of William Rodgers Sr, appears to be one of his younger children—his gravestone does not give an age but his wife was born in 1754. And the first record that can be clearly identified as William Rodgers Jr. is when he signed a petition in 1769 protesting the division of Hanover township into smaller divisions. So the extra William Rodgers listed on the 1756 tax list was almost certainly not the son of William Rodgers Sr, especially since there is no William Rodgers on the tax list in 1759.

William Rodgers Sr seems to be more of a contemporary of the children of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. Also, it is clear that he interacted with the family of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. He attended the Old Hanover Presbyterian Church and his eldest son, James Rodgers, ended up obtaining the property of Joseph Rodgers, son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. This author's opinion is that William Rodgers Sr may very well have been another son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. But if so, why was he not mentioned in the will of Robert Rodgers Jr or the will of Seth Rodgers? It is obvious that William Rodgers was wealthier than the other Rodgers—he had twice as much land as Seth Rodgers or any other child of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. Perhaps they did not leave him anything because they felt he did not need any additional land or money. It is also conceivable that he was a cousin or some other relation, but it seems a near certainty that some relationship existed.

There is one last Rodgers that seems highly likely to be related to the family of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton—Col John Rodgers. This individual also attended the Old Hanover Presbyterian Church—a plaque dedicated to him there states that he died on 6 Dec 1799. There is this statement about him at Find A Grave:

In 1774, John Rogers was on the Resolves of Hanover committee of nine, for emergency situations.

In 1777, he was a Colonel in the 6th Battalion, in 1780, a Lieutenant Colonel in the 9th Battalion and in 1783, he was in the 1st Battalion. All of these Battalions were in Lancaster Co., PA

Buried at Old Hanover Cemetery in East Hanover was "John Rogers, died 6 Dec 1799, Lt. Col. in Command of 9th Bn., LCM," was recorded in President Oscar H Stroh's (Harris Ferry Chapter Sons of the American Revolution) Revolutionary War Soldiers Buried in Dauphin County Pennsylvania, 1988, p 5. Note the same data is also listed buried at the Derry Presbyterian Church Cemetery on p 4. Verify 6 December.

According to family, "Col. John Rodgers and his parents were members of The Old Hanover Presbyterian Church. He began attending Derry Presbyterian Church and is buried there."

His marker at the Derry Presbyterian Church where he is actually buried is hard to read, but it agrees that his death date is 6 Dec 1799. The age is more difficult to read and appears to be either 63 or 68 (so a birth year of 1731 or 1736). Col. John Rodgers played a significant role in the Revolutionary War and was a very prominent person of interest in The History of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, Pennsylvania by Evans and Peck (1883).

According to the Dauphin Co., PA Orphans Court Docket Book B p 280), David and Margaret Hayes were appointed the executors of the last will and testament of Col. John Rodgers. Unfortunately, this will was not transcribed into the will books but was apparently kept with his original case file and has since been lost. However, a deed was found that helped to explain the settlement of John Rodgers' estate—Mary Rodgers to David Hayes and Margaret his wife (Dauphin Co., PA Deed Bk O pp 178-9):

“Whereas Agnes Bradley late of Derry township, County of Dauphin and State of Pennsylvania, deceased, widow and relict of Samuel Bradley, deceased, was seized in fee of certain parcels of land which the said Agnes in her widowhood bought of John Rodgers and William Hayes, her sons-in-law, which she, the said Agnes, did by her Last Will and Testament bearing date the eight day of October in the year of our Lord One Thousand seven hundred and ninety-three (did) give and bequeath to her grandson John Rodgers, son of said John Rodgers. And whereas the said John Rodgers, her grandson, died some years before the said Agnes, it is considered that the bequeathment of the land aforesaid to her said grandson is lapsed and that it shall according to the laws and customs of this Commonwealth descend equally to Mary Rodgers, wife of John Rodgers who was the father of John Rodgers to whom the bequeathment was made, which said Mary was the daughter of said Agnes Bradley, and Jennet Hayes, wife of William Hayes and daughter also of said Agnes Bradley, who are the only surviving children of the said Agnes.

Now this Indenture made this Fourteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and three, Between Mary Rodgers, widow and relict of John Rodgers deceased of Hanover township, Dauphin County and State of Pennsylvania of the one part and David Hayes Esquire and Margaret his wife of the borough of Beaver, County of Beaver and State aforesaid of the other part, Witnesseth that the said Mary for and in consideration of five shillings to her in hand paid by the said David at and before the ensealing and delivery (from) her of the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged besides other valuable considerations thereunto moving, Hath granted, bargained and sold and by their presents, Doth grant, bargain and fell (?) to the said David Hayes and his wife, their heirs and assigns, one half of the above described land situated in Derry township and County of Dauphin, with all her interests, estates, rights, Title and property, Claim and demand in Law or equity, Together with the improvements, ways, woods., waters and water courses, To have and to hold the above described Land and parcel of land, hereby granted or mentioned to be with the said appurtenances unto the said Hayes and Margaret his wife, their heirs and assigns forever. In Testimony whereof she, the said Mary Rodgers, hath hereunto set her hand and Seat the day and year within written.

Mary Rodgers”

This is an immensely important deed. Aside from the fact that Agnes Bradley's will was also not transcribed into the will books and this is the only document that verifies that she is the mother

of Mary Rodgers, this deed also verifies a chain of ownership of land that is nowhere else to be found. Col John Rodgers had sold his land to Agnes Bradley “in her widowhood.” Although this deed states that this land is in Derry township, on modern maps it is technically in South Hanover township adjacent to Derry township. After a series of deed transactions where it eventually becomes the property of another Samuel Bradley in 1803, the land description in the final deed is for 200 acres at the confluence of the Swatara and Manada Creeks—this was the original land that was warranted to Seth Rodgers, son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, in 1743!

Looking back at Figure 6. the survey map of William Trousdale (who had purchased the land claim of Hugh Rodgers) on page 11 of this work, it is clear that the land to the south which had been the original warrant for Seth Rodgers had been owned by a John Rodgers in 1765 at the time of William Trousdale’s survey. The deed of Mary Rodgers, widow of Col. John Rodgers, to David and Margaret Hayes now clearly shows that it was Col. John Rodgers who had obtained ownership of the land originally owned by Seth Rodgers (d. 1758). This also makes one look much more seriously at the Orphans Court record pertaining to the resolution of Seth Rodgers’ estate. In 1762 Seth Rodgers, son of George Rodgers of Augusta Co., VA (son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton), was aged 14 years or upwards and had chosen John Rodgers to be his guardian for the purpose of collecting his inheritance of 25 pounds from the sale of the land that was bequeathed to him in his uncle’s will. This now makes it clear that the John Rodgers who was the guardian was in fact Col. John Rodgers. It would be highly unlikely that Col. John Rodgers would have been appointed as guardian of the young Seth Rodgers (son of George Rodgers) if there was no relationship. The real question is what the relationship was.

The “Notes and Queries” article from 1893 by William Henry Egle had strongly suggested that Col. John Rodgers was the son of Hugh Rodgers (d. 1758). It is known that Hugh Rodgers had a son named John from the Zeno Campbell letter, but according to Zeno Campbell this John Rodgers had migrated to North Carolina. The John Rodgers who has been purportedly identified as the son of Hugh Rodgers died in Mecklenburg Co., NC in 1802 with a wife named Anna. During the Rodgers DNA surname project in 2007 a descendant of Hugh Rodgers, son of John Rodgers (d. 1802), had participated in the DNA project and had a genetic distance of 2 from the anchor of the project who was a descendant of Seth Rodgers (b. 1757 Mecklenburg Co., NC d. 21 Jan 1832 Cabarrus Co., NC), son of John Rodgers (d. 1785) and Martha Rodgers (d. 1785) [Note: John and Martha Rodgers were the grandparents of Zeno Campbell]. Considering the information from the Zeno Campbell letter and the genetic match of John Rodgers (d.1802) to a known descendant of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, it seems highly unlikely that Col. John Rodgers was a son of Hugh Rodgers (d. 1758). Also, if Col. John Rodgers were the son of Hugh Rodgers then why would he have not inherited his father’s land—the land claimed by Hugh Rodgers would ultimately go to William Trousdale by 1765. Col. John Rodgers actually purchased his land from Seth Rodgers (s/o George Rodgers).

However, going back to the 1759 tax list after the death of William Rodgers (d. 1759), there were four individuals named Rodgers that appeared to be paying taxes on the land that had been owned by William Rodgers—Ketrion, John, Adam and George. My postulate is that Col. John

Rodgers was a son of William Rodgers. Descendants of Col. John Rodgers state that family legend had preserved that he had attended the Old Hanover Church with his parents. Well, William Rodgers and his family did indeed attend the Old Hanover Church. The main contention against this theory is that during the sale of the land of William Rodgers (d.1759) in 1771 that there is no son named John listed as an heir. The heirs listed on the deed also do not include the names of Ketron, Adam or George. The counterpoint to this is that clearly the oldest sons were paying the taxes on the land of William Rodgers on the 1759 tax list. While their mother was still living, she may very well have given the older sons their inheritance and George and Ketron moved away from Pennsylvania. She may very well have provided Col. John Rodgers the 25 pounds to purchase the land of Seth Rodgers. And if this was the case, then that would have excluded these older sons from inheriting by the sale of their father’s property.

Another interesting point that needs to be made is that after Col. John Rodgers’ estate was finalized in 1803 and the land was sold, David and Margaret Rodgers Hays (the son-in-law and daughter of Col. John Rodgers) had moved to Beaver Co., PA. Most coincidentally they lived in the same borough of Beaver in Beaver County as Jeremiah Rodgers (1745-1817), a known son of William Rodgers (d. 1759). Rather than being a coincidence, it seems more likely that they had followed Margaret Rodgers Hayes’ uncle there.

Assuming that Col. John Rodgers was the son of William Rodgers and noting the fact that he had been appointed guardian of the young Seth Rodgers (s/o George Rodgers) in 1762, then this would seem to dramatically strengthen the case that William Rodgers (d. 1759) was in fact another son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. Y-DNA analysis may be beneficial in sorting this out. Unfortunately, the only son of Col. John Rodgers died in 1794 without children and is buried in the Derry Presbyterian Church graveyard—his marker states that he died 19 May 1794 in his twentieth year. Other descendants of William Rodgers may be able to participate, however. The proposed family of William Rodgers and his wife Frances is listed below:

William Rodgers	+	Frances
b. ?		b. ?
d. 1759 Hanover, Old Lancaster (Dauphin), PA		d. Between 1759 and 1771

Children:

1) James Rodgers	+	Florence
b. 1730 or 1735		b.
d. 18 Apr 1790		d. After 1798
Children: James, Frances (w/o James Burland), George, Richard, Flora		

- 2) Col John Rodgers + Mary Taylor (d/o Agnes Bradley)*
 b. 1731 or 1736 b.
 d. 7 Dec 1799 West Hanover, Dauphin Co., PA d.
 Children: John (1774-1794), Margaret (1776-1826), Agnes (1783-1793)
- 3) Richard Rodgers + Rachel Denny
 b. 1733 b. Jun 1748
 m. 1771
 d. 16 Sep 1804 d. 1 Apr 1812
 Children: William (1772-1849), James (1775-1831), Andrew (1782-1868), Denny (1785-1831), Rachel (1785-1829), Jane
- 4) Ketron Rodgers
 b. Before 1739
 d. After 1759
- 5) Adam Rodgers
 b. Before 1739
 d. After 1759
- 6) George Rodgers
 b. Before 1739
 d. After 1759
- 7) Frances Rodgers (unmarried at the selling of her father's property)
 b. ?
 d. After 1771
- 8) Ann Rodgers (unmarried at the selling of her father's property)
 b. ?
 d. After 1771
- 9) Jeremiah Rodgers + Mary
 b. 1745 Hanover, Old Lancaster Co., PA
 d. 1817 Beaver, Beaver Co., PA
 Children: John (1780-1860), Mary
- 10) Andrew Rodgers + Jane Henderson
 b. 1746 Hanover, Old Lancaster Co., PA b.
 d. 19 Sep 1782 Hanover, Lancaster, PA d.
 Children: Margaret, Frances, Robert

11) Margaret Rodgers b. 1754 m. 22 Oct 1767 d. 1780 Children: William (1768-1838), Jeremiah (1770-1818), James (1772-1856), Samuel (1774-1821), Andrew (1779-1857)	+	Samuel Sturgeon b. 1741 Hanover, Old Lancaster, PA d. 2 Oct 1801 Hanover, Dauphin, PA
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Figure 7. The Family of William Rodgers d. 1759 in Hanover, Old Lancaster (Dauphin), PA

It should be noted that much of the information regarding the family of William Rodgers (d. 1759) was obtained by a family file at the Lancaster County Historical Society in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The information in this family file was written down by George W Rogers of Dayton, Ohio in 1917—he was a great grandson of Andrew Rodgers (1746-1782). The file was submitted to the Lancaster County Historical Society by his daughters, Anna C Rogers and Helen F Rogers, in 1954. George W. Rogers was not a genealogist, but had written down his recollections of the family history as had been told to him by his grandfather Robert Rodgers, son of Andrew Rodgers. Most of the information has been independently proven to be true.

*Please note that the deed of Agnes Bradley’s estate settlement clearly identifies Mary Rodgers, wife of Col John Rodgers, as her daughter. Agnes Bradley was married to Samuel Bradley who had died in 1785 leaving a will. In his will, he leaves a legacy to his wife Agnes, but then he proceeds to leave the rest of his property to the children of his brother John Bradley. This makes it quite clear that Samuel and Agnes Bradley did not have any children together. The DAR file on Col. John Rodgers states that his wife’s name was Mary Taylor—no source was given. It is presumed from this information that Agnes Bradley had been married previously to a man named Taylor and had at least two daughters before she was widowed and then she married Samuel Bradley.

The Migration to Virginia

The earliest provable migration of descendants of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton had occurred by 1747-1748 when George Rodgers (ca 1705-1768) moved to Augusta Co., Virginia. This is proven by the following deed which was cited previously in this article:

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 2, p. 621: 28th February, 1749. William Beverley to George Rodger (Rodgers), 540 acres in Beverley Manor. Corner George Anderson; Cathey's River; Christie's Creek; Hamilton's corner; James Crawford's corner. Consideration paid 28th February, 1741. Teste: George Pine, James Moffett.

However, the Kerr family of Paxtang township, Old Lancaster Co., PA also moved to Augusta Co., Virginia in this same time frame. Catherine Hunter, daughter of Agnes Rodgers Hunter (d. 1759 Rowan Co., NC) and niece of George Rodgers (ca 1705-1768), and her husband David Kerr had moved to Augusta Co., Virginia:

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 2, Page 769.--22d May, 1750. Borden to David Carr (Kerr) 368 acres, survey of James McNutt, late deceased, Kennedy's Mill Creek; corner John Kerr. Delivered: Francis Beaty, 29th May, 1753.

According to a family history of the Kerr family entitled Kerr's Kin, Mary Kerr (daughter of David Kerr and Catherine Hunter) was born in Augusta Co., Virginia on 14 Oct 1745. If this is true, then if George Rodgers migrated to Augusta Co., Virginia at the same time as the family of David Kerr then he may have been in Virginia as early as 1745. Ultimately, David Kerr and his wife Catherine Hunter sold their land in Augusta Co., VA and moved to Rowan Co. NC:

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 5, Page 167.--21st March, 1753. David Kerr and Kathrine, to Robert Gray, 200 acres of 92100, in Borden's tract; Joseph Kennedy's Mill Creek; McNut's line; John Kerr's line.

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 6, Page 339.--20th August, 1754. David Kerr and Catherine, plantationer, to Arthur Kennedy, taylor, £57, 168 acres on Joseph Kennedy's Mill Creek, part of 368 acres purchased by David from Kerr; corner to Robt. Gray, who possesses the other part of the tract; McNut's line; corner Francis Beaty. Teste: John Wardlaw, William Gray.

1754 seems to be a significant year. Not only David Kerr and his wife Catherine Hunter moved to Rowan Co., NC. This may have been the year that Agnes Rodgers Hunter and her son Robert Hunter most likely had moved to Rowan Co., NC. This may also be the year that Robert Rodgers (son of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid) moved to North Carolina. This will be discussed further in the section on the migration to North Carolina. However, many members of the Kerr family remained in Augusta Co., VA and continued to interact with George Rodgers.

James Kerr (ca 1685-1770), the progenitor of the Kerr family, was one of the first settlers in Augusta Co., Virginia and had purchased his first land from William Beverly in 1739. His house functioned as the first courthouse when Augusta County was formed from Orange County in 1739. He had arrived from Northern Ireland about 1726 and settled initially in Paxtang

township. When he moved to Augusta Co., VA many of his children were already adults and some were married. Many of his sons remained initially in Pennsylvania throughout the 1740's, but all of them eventually moved to Augusta Co., VA and brought their families with them. The 540 acres purchased by George Rodgers in 1749 was in the northeastern part of Beverly Manor on the Cathey River—less than a mile from the land obtained by James Kerr in 1739.





Figure 8. Plat map showing George Rodgers' land in Augusta Co. VA

The above plat map Fig. 8, shows George Rodgers' land in the northeastern corner of Beverly Manor in Augusta Co., Virginia. The land of James Carr (Kerr) is just on the other side Samuel Garber's property and is immediately next to the land of Isaac White—another person who played a prominent role in the family of George Rodgers.

Considering that Paxtang township (the origin point of James Kerr's family) and Hanover township were adjacent in Old Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, it seems highly likely that George Rodgers knew the Kerr family before his migration to Augusta Co., VA. The intermarriage of Catherine Hunter (d/o Agnes Rodgers Hunter) to David Kerr (s/o James Kerr), would seem to ensure that the Rodgers and Kerr families knew each other in Pennsylvania. It is

thought that this interaction between the Rodgers and Kerr families may have even been the reason that George Rodgers moved to Virginia in the first place.

George Rodgers died in February 1768 intestate. His estate records do not have a formal settlement that identified the names of his children. So what is known of his family has been constructed through other means. It was already known from the will of Seth Rodgers (d. 1758), son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, that George Rodgers had sons named Robert and Seth. Indeed, Robert Rodgers was the administrator of his father's estate along with George's widow, Elizabeth. It has also been determined that he had a son named Thomas. Below is the proposed family of George Rodgers (d. 1768):

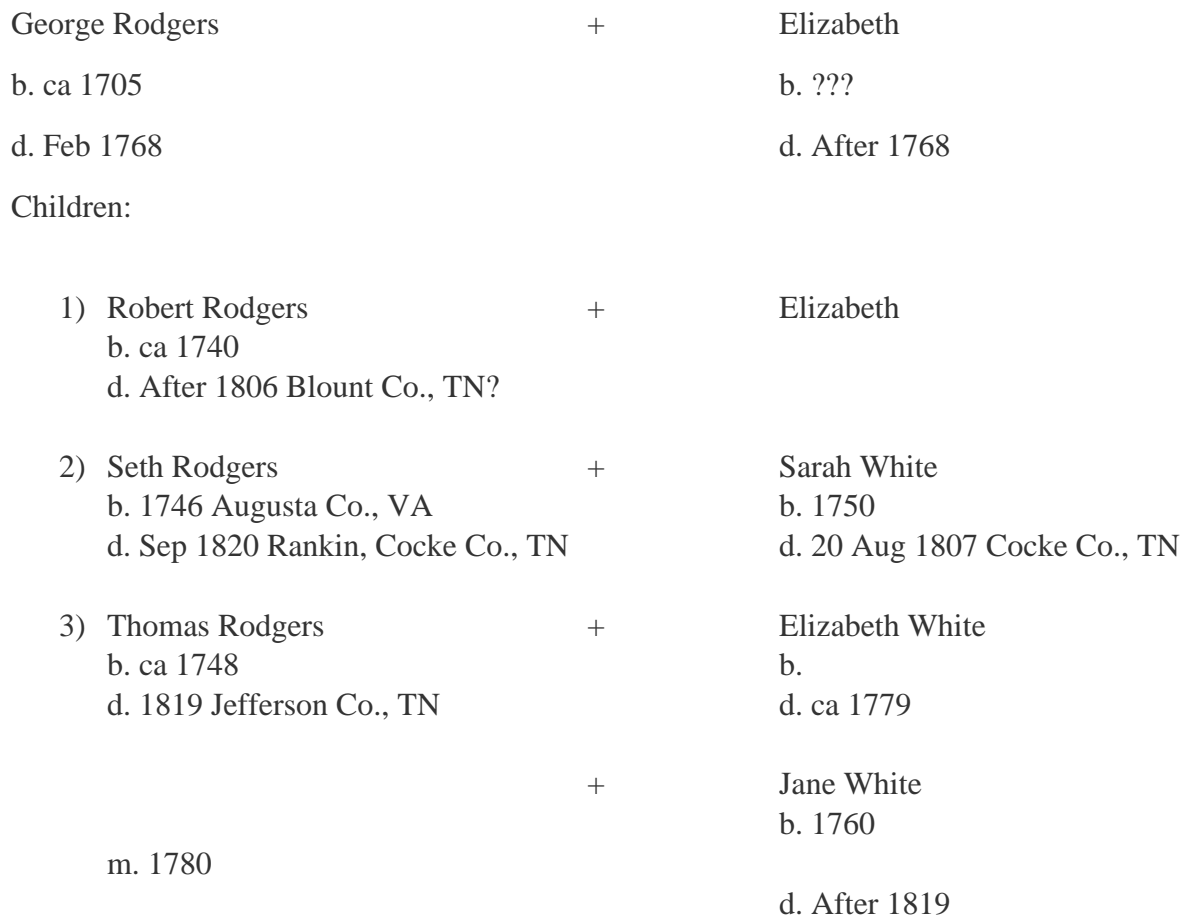


Figure 9. The Family of George Rodgers d. 1768, son of Robert Rogers and Margaret Thornton

Research in Augusta Co., VA was somewhat difficult. There were several Rodgers families living there that were unrelated to George Rodgers. There was a James Rodgers whose children later removed to Greenbrier County in the 1770's, a Thomas Rodgers who died in 1791 that had been in Augusta County from at least 1754, William Rogers who lived in Staunton, and Captain Edward Rodgers. Great care was taken to ensure that name similarities did not confuse the overall interpretation of records.

Fortunately, there was only one Robert Rodgers and one Seth Rodgers living in Augusta County, Virginia so it made it easier to interpret the various Rodgers based on interactions with them.

One of the most significant finds was that of George Rodgers Jr:

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 10 p 181.--16th February, 1762. *George Rodgers, Jr.*, to Nathaniel Lyon, £40 two tracts: 1st, 170 acres in Beverley Manor; cor. Robert Wilson and Joseph Reed's old place; cor. David Moore. 2d, 50 acres in Beverley Manor; cor. Robert Sayer's land in Wm. Thomason's line, Robert Wilson's line. Teste: Samuel and Jos. Moore. Delivered: Thomas Bowyer, April, 1765.

The tracts of land being sold by George Rodgers Jr in the above deed were purchased in 1754:

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 6 p 172.--21st March, 1754. Beverley by Lewis and Madison to Geo. Rodgers, 170 acres in Beverley Manor. Cor. Robert Wilson and Robert Sayers; cor. land of David Moore, deceased

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 6 p 312.--10th April, 1754. Robert Sayer and Hannah to Geo. Rogers, £9.5.0. 50 acres in Beverley Manor, part of 2 tracts conveyed in fee by Beverley to Joseph Reed and by Joseph Reed to David Sayer and by David to Robert Sayer; corner Ro. Sayer in Wm. Thompson's line; corner in said Roger's old line; Robert Wilson's line.

For many years, there was a consensus amongst genealogists researching the Rodgers' family that this George Rodgers Jr was indeed the eldest son of George Rodgers Sr. However, in the colonial era the term "junior" was frequently used simply to identify one person of the same name being younger than another person of the same name. Research into the other known Rodgers families in Augusta Co., VA did not identify a George Rodgers amongst any of them. And George Rodgers Sr had indeed purchased land very near where George Rodgers Jr lived:

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 11 p 367.--20th September, 1763. Daniel Kidd and Anne () to George Rodgers, £90, 135 acres in Beverley Manor on Christian's Creek, George Hutcheson's line. Teste: Samuel Moore, Jno. Hunter.

The land purchased by George Rodgers Jr was the property originally sold by William Beverly to Joseph Reed near Christian Creek in 1740. The 135 acres purchased by George Rodgers Sr in 1763 was on Christian Creek. Also, note that the deed of sale of George Rodgers Jr's land in 1762 was witnessed by Samuel Moore. The deed of purchase of the land on Christian Creek in 1763 by George Rodgers Sr was also witnessed by Samuel Moore. The next deed proves that the property purchased in 1763 was by George Rodgers Sr (d. 1768):

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 11 p 55.--22d April, 1763. George Rodgers and Elisabeth to Robert Rodgers, of Augusta, and Robert Wallace, of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, £200, two tracts in Beverley Manor: 1st, containing 540 acres conveyed by Beverley to George, 28th February, 1749; cor. George Anderson, Cathies River, Christian's Creek; Jacob Carr's cor.; James Crawford's cor; 2d tract, 135 acres conveyed to George by Daniel Kidd, 20th September, 1763; Christie's Creek, George Hutcheson's line.

The second tract that George Rodgers Sr conveys to his son Robert is on Christian Creek very near the land of George Rodgers Jr. Clearly there was a close connection between George

Rodgers Sr and George Rodgers Jr. Extensive research was undertaken to find any record in Augusta Co., VA or elsewhere that could identify who George Rodgers Jr. actually was. The current line of thinking is that George Rodgers Jr was actually the son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore. George Rodgers, son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, was born in 1733 but never appears on the tax lists in any township that would be considered part of modern day Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. But it is also clear that he had no presence in Cabarrus Co., North Carolina until 1776—when the 1850 census identifies that his youngest son John was born in North Carolina. The 1850 Cabarrus Co., NC census is one of those rare censuses that the census taker also reported the county of the birthplace of individuals in addition to the state that they were born. And on that census on page 810, Susannah Rodgers Glover (1774-1854)—daughter of George Rodgers (s/o Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore)—clearly stated that she was born in Bedford Co., Virginia. After the sale of property by George Rodgers Jr in 1762 and he had left Augusta Co., VA, then the George Rodgers (s/o Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore) first appears in Bedford Co., VA. The line of thinking is that after the death of Joseph Rodgers (d. 1746-1750), his son George Rodgers (1733-1825) went to Virginia to be near his uncle and namesake, George Rodgers Sr (d, 1768). He resided in Augusta Co., VA for over a decade and then migrated to Bedford Co., VA by 1763. By 1776, he had moved to Cabarrus Co., NC where his youngest son John Rodgers (1776-1864) was born. Although absolute proof is lacking, this seems to make the most sense from the information available.

Getting back to last mentioned deed, George Rodgers Sr (d. 1768) sold all of his property jointly to his son Robert Rodgers and Robert Wallace of Lancaster Co., PA. And yes, it can be proven that this Robert Wallace is the same individual who was living in Hanover township. Clearly, George Rodgers was trying to entice Robert Wallace to move to Augusta Co., VA. This had raised the suspicion that Robert Wallace (1712-1791) might have been a son-in-law of George Rodgers, but independent records have verified that his wife's name was Mary Clyde, although it is possible that Robert Wallace might have been married twice and that his second wife was Mary Clyde. No relationship to Robert Wallace is identified in the deed. The original purpose of showing this deed was that it showed the sale of two tracts—the original land purchased from William Beverly in 1749 and the land purchased by Daniel Kidd in 1763.

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 13 p 305.--9th December, 1766. Robert Rogers, of Augusta County, and Robert Wallace, of Hanover Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and Mary () to Seth Rogers, of the same County and Colony, £200, 135 acres in Beverley Manor conveyed from Daniel Kidd to George Rogers, 20th September, 1763. and by George to Robert Rogers and Robert Wallace above, on 22d September, 1763, oak in George Hutcheson's line at Christie's Creek. Teste: James Cooper, Thomas McNeal. Delivered: Seth Rodgers, 5th April, 1774.

This deed is very significant. First, it identifies that if Robert Wallace came to Virginia at all it was brief. He was clearly back in Hanover township of Lancaster Co., PA by 1766. Second, this seems to identify when Seth Rodgers came of age. The guardianship record of Seth Rodgers in Lancaster Co., PA from 1762 when he was awarded 25 pounds from the sale of his uncle Seth Rodger's land identified that he was of 14 years and upwards—legally this meant that he was able to choose his guardian, whereas if one was under the age of 14 then the court would choose one for the minor child. This creates an upper limit on the year of Seth Rodgers' birth as being

1748. But the deed shown above identifies that Robert Rodgers, son of George Rodgers (d. 1768), was selling property to Seth Rodgers without a guardian in 1766. Technically, one could not take ownership of land until the age of 21. Since there were no birth certificates at this time, this law was frequently flouted. But in this case, the family of George Rodgers had been residing in Augusta Co., VA since the late 1740's. Neighbors would have known how old Seth Rodgers was. If Seth Rodgers were only 18 years old when this transaction took place then the neighbors would probably have spoken up about this. I think it more likely that Seth Rodgers was about 20-21 years old when this transaction took place so he was born about 1745-1746.

Now it is time to discuss the connection of the family of George Rodgers Sr (d. 1768) to Isaac White. Looking at Figure 8, the plat map shown on page 26, the location of Isaac White's land was southeast of George Rodgers' land and was adjacent the land of James Kerr (1685-1770). Isaac White wrote his will in 1775, but the will was not proven until 1782:

Augusta Co., VA Will Bk 6 p 231.--10th August, 1775. Isaac White's will--To wife, Jane, mare bought of Lewis Baker; to sons, viz: David, Isaac, James and Gordon White, if any of them die in infancy; to daughters, Jane, Isabella, Margret, if any die infants; son, Gordon, and daughters, Isabella and Margret, be schooled; to daughters already married, viz: Mary Young, Elizabeth and Sarah Rodgers. Executors, James Steele, John Young. Teste: Andrew Russell, David White. Proved, 17th April, 1782, by the witnesses. Executors refused to execute. Jane, the widow, relinquished her right. Administration granted David and Isaac White.

Notice that two of the daughters in the will of Isaac White are identified as being married with the Rodgers surname. Sarah White can be identified as the wife of Seth Rodgers. When Seth Rodgers finally sold his property in 1786, his wife Sarah relinquished her dower.

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 25 p 295-296.—18 Apr, 1786 Seth Rodgers and Sarah his wife to Robert Hansberger both parties of Augusta County, Virginia for £350 in hand 135 acres in Beverly Manor on both sides of Christian Creek

There was only one Sarah Rodgers in Augusta County records in this timeframe, so this proves that Seth Rodgers was married to Sarah White, daughter of Isaac White. However, the will also identified a daughter named Elizabeth and since it is known from the deed records that the wife of Robert Rodgers (s/o George Rodgers) was named Elizabeth then the initial conclusion was that this must be the wife of Robert Rodgers. However, this assumption was proven incorrect.

Isaac White wrote his will in 1775 and at that time his daughter Elizabeth Rodgers was still alive. However, at the final settlement of the estate there is no Elizabeth Rodgers listed amongst the heirs—it is clear that she was dead by 1782. In addition, Jane White who was listed as being unmarried in 1775 at the writing of the will had been identified as Jane Rodgers in 1782.

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 26 Page 428.--21st December, 1783. Robert Rodgers and Elizabeth to Paulser Teverbaugh, part of 54 acres in Beverly Manor first conveyed to George Rodgers, deceased.

This deed clearly shows that Elizabeth, wife of Robert Rodgers, was still alive in 1783—a year after the settlement of the estate of Isaac White. It was another Rodgers that had married

Elizabeth White, daughter of Isaac White—Thomas Rodgers. Thomas Rodgers is also thought to be a son of George Rodgers (d. 1768). Look at the following two deeds:

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 16 p 230.--20th March, 1770. Joseph Poindexter and Elizabeth to Thomas Rodgers, £50, 143 acres on north side Shanandore; John Patrick's line; Thomas Turk's line. Teste: John Rodgers, James Kennerly, Jr., Samuel Woods.

Augusta Co., VA Deed Bk 17 p 193.--20th May, 1771. Thomas Rodgers and Betty to James Kennerley. £100 143 acres, north side Shanandore River, John Patrick's lines; corner Poindexter's land, Thomas Turk's line. Teste: Richard Poindexter. Delivered to Mr. Kennerley. March 1777

Thomas Rodgers is thought to be the youngest son of George Rodgers (d. 1768), having been born about 1748. He first purchased land in 1770, but then sold it only a year later. In the second deed it identifies his wife as “Betty,” a pet name for Elizabeth. Thomas Rodgers never purchased any other land in Virginia. The appearance of a John Rodgers who witnessed the first deed of Thomas Rodgers raised the question as to whether or not he might have been a brother. However, no other record identifies any association of a John Rodgers with the family of George Rodgers (d. 1768).

The 1777 list of tithables (tax list) for Augusta Co., VA of Alexander Robertson’s company shows Seth Rodgers with two pols and 135 acres of land. Immediately next to Seth Rodgers is Thomas Rodgers with one pol and no land. Robert Rodgers is seen four entries later with 2 pols and 478 acres of land—one pol was a servant named Lewis Williams. The fact that Seth Rodgers has two pols in his household (or two men of 21 years of age or older) could indicate that the John Rodgers who witnessed the deed transaction of Joseph Poindexter to Thomas Rodgers in 1770 was another son of George Rodgers. Unfortunately, all subsequent tax lists show Seth Rodgers with only a single pol in his household up through 1786 when he sold his property and moved to Tennessee. Nothing further is known about this mystery John Rodgers.

There is one other individual who could be a son of George Rodgers (d. 1768) that has not been identified. This connection is through James Lessley. Looking at the plat map on page 26 it can be seen that James Lessley’s property was due east of and adjacent to George Rodgers’ land. James Lessley died in 1780 and his widow Sarah Lessley died in 1792 with a will:

Augusta Co., VA Will Bk 8 p 27.--23d November, 1789. Sarah Lessley's will--To sons, Samuel, John, and daughters, Isabella, Agness, Elizabeth, and son, Robert, 1 shilling each; to niece, Agness Lessley, daughter of James Lessley; to nieces, Mary, Isabella, Elizabeth, Margaret Robertson, daughters of John Robertson, deceased; to daughter, *Margaret Rodgers*; to daughter, Sarah. Executor, Joseph Bell. Teste: Alex. Nelson, Jr.; Suckey Bell. Proved, December Court, 1792, by the witnesses. Executor refuses. Administration granted Joseph Wilson.

James and Sarah Lessley had a daughter named Margaret who had married a Rodgers. Considering that George Rodgers (d. 1768) was an immediate neighbor of James and Sarah Lessley, a son of George Rodgers is likely who Margaret married. If John Rodgers was indeed a son of George Rodgers it may be he who had married Margaret Lessley. At this point due to lack of records nothing further has been ascertained.

Unfortunately, no daughters of George Rodgers (d. 1768) have been identified. The individuals who have been identified as the sons of George Rodgers are Robert Rodgers (b. ca 1740), Seth Rodgers (b. 1746), and Thomas Rodgers (b. 1748). To solidify information that is known about this family further, it is necessary to discuss the migration to Tennessee.

Robert and Seth Rodgers sold their land in 1786 and left Augusta Co., VA. It can be proven that the family moved to Tennessee. In Chronicles of the Scotch Irish Settlement in Virginia by Lyman Chalkley, there is a lawsuit entitled *Lessley vs Lessley* over a property dispute in Vol. 2 on page 126:

Lessley vs. Lessley--O. S. 145; N. S. 50--Bill, 29th September, 1804. Complainants are, viz: Rachel Crawford (wife of Alexander), Sally Henderson (wife of John), Polly Bell (wife of Robert), Agness Evans (wife of Morgan), only children, heirs and devisees of James Lesly, deceased, of Augusta. James died in 1775 testate. The widow died a few weeks after James, leaving oratrixes infants. Two executors in 1779 sold the land to Robert Rogers, who afterwards moved to Tennessee, Blount County. Elizabeth McCune deposes 24th November, 1775, in Augusta, that her daughter, Mary Lessley, on her death bed, &c. Elizabeth was wife of Samuel McCune.

This lawsuit in 1804 identified that after Robert Rodgers, son of George Rodgers (d. 1768), had sold his land in Augusta Co., Virginia that he had moved to Blount Co., Tennessee. They left Augusta County in 1786. The above lawsuit is actually a continuance of a lawsuit that was initiated in 1802 because the land that Robert Rodgers had sold to James Kerr in 1779 was short the acreage it was supposed to have. Robert Rodgers needed to be found to help resolve the dispute. Once Robert Rodgers was found, he then filed a deposition with the Blount Co., Tennessee Court which was forwarded to Augusta Co., Virginia and recorded in Augusta County Virginia Deed Book 33, pp 12-13:

I Robert Rogers of Tennessee State, Blount County, being heir at law to George Rogers deceased who purchased five hundred & forty acres of land lying in Beverley Manner in Augusta County Virginia from Robert Beverley owner of said grant, and as it appears there is not the full quantity of said five hundred & 40 acres in the bounds land of by order of said Beverley by his Survey or I so hereby certify I have bargained and sold to James Rutledge of said Augusta County of Virginia all my rite, title and interest of whatsoever numbers of acres of land may yet be coming to George Rogers heirs for a certain sum received of said five hundred and forty acres together with my right of a certain entry I made on said Beverleys

land with his agent Thomas Lewis and I do empower said James Rutledge to take every step by law or otherwise to procure a rite for as many acres as may be lacking of said five hundred and forty and I do hereby atherise [sic] and allow said Rutledge to make use my name in any lease or manner whatsoever he may think proper to conduct to procure said land or value of it given under my hand and seal this 21 day of September 1803 interlined before since

Teste

Jacob Bougher

Robert Rogers (seal)

John Pearce

State of Tennessee Blount County;

We Andrew Thompson & Barclay McGee Justices of the Court of please & quarter sessions for the County aforesaid do certify that the within power of attorney was proven by the oaths of John Pearce & Jacob Baugher the subscribing witnesses thereto before us this 22d day of September 1803 given under our hands and seals the day and date aforesaid.

Andw Thompson (seal)

B. McGhee (seal)

State Tennessee Blount County

I James Houston Clerk of the Court of please & quarter sessions for the county aforesaid do certify that Andrew Thompson & Barclay McGee who subscribed the above certificate are both acting Justices in Blount County at this time. Give under my hand and private seal not having a seal of office at office this 22nd day of September 1803 & xxviii year of American Independence

J Houston C. B. C.

At a Court continued and held for Augusta county the 29th day of January 1805. This letter of attorney from Robert Rogers to James Rutledge having been proved before Andrew Thompson and Barclay McGhee two of Justices of the Court of please and quarter sessions for the County of Blount in the state of Tennessee, as appears by their certificate; and it appearing by he certificate of James Houston clerk of the said Court with his private seal thereto annexed (he having no seal of Office) that the said Thompson and McGhee are Justices as aforesaid, which said certificates are endorsed on the said letter of attorney which now being produced in Court is ordered to be recorded together with the certificates aforesaid

Teste Charley Kinney CC

What is very odd about this situation is that the above record is the only instance where Robert Rodgers is found amongst any of the available records in Blount Co., Tennessee. There are no references to him in the court minutes, tax lists or deed records. Review of books of abstracts of deeds in Blount Co., Tennessee does not even show that anyone listed Robert Rodgers as a neighbor. There are two possibilities. First, he may have been in poor health and was living with a married daughter, so there were no legal transactions involving him. Second, it is possible that Robert Rodgers was not truly a resident of Blount County, TN but merely went there to do the deposition and give power of attorney to James Rutledge to resolve the dispute involving him

in Augusta Co., VA. Since Robert Rodgers might have had large financial obligations he may have wanted to obscure his whereabouts in case he was found at fault. It appears that in the timeframe immediately after the deposition he must have left Blount County as he could not be found in Blount County, TN in 1806 when summoned again by the August County Court. What is clear is that his brothers Seth and Thomas did not accompany him to Blount Co., TN.

The lack of early census records for eastern Tennessee from 1790 to 1820 was initially crippling to the research of the Rodgers family in Tennessee. However, the first identifiable record of the other two sons of George Rodgers (d. 1768) in Tennessee is from a petition entitled “Petition of Sundry Inhabitants South of the French Broad River” dated Nov-Dec 1789 [North Carolina State Archives Box 4 Folder 81]. This was a plea from the inhabitants of eastern Tennessee on the French Broad River to the state government of North Carolina to provide military protection against incursions by the Indians. On this list shows the names of Thomas Rogers, Seth Rogers, and Isaac Rogers immediately next to each other. Other names on this list included John Kerr, Samuel Kerr, Robert Carr (Kerr), Matthew Bell, and William Bell—all names of immediate neighbors of the family of George Rodgers (d. 1768) in Augusta Co., Virginia.

Identifying that Seth and Thomas Rodgers were in the French Broad River area helped to narrow the search. Reviewing land grants south of the French Broad River identified this:

#1329

Thomas and Seth Rogers-473 acres-Cocke County-south side French Broad River beginning at the mouth of a cut on the waters edge of the river running up the meanders of the river along a dividing ridge, agreeable to a verdict of a jury held on the premises to decide a dispute between the said Jack, Wm. George and George Carter and the said Thomas and Seth Rogers, George and Carter’s corner, Carter’s line, George Rogers line-CC Thomas Rogers Senr. and Andrew Donovan Surveyed February 7, 1807

Thomas and Seth Rodgers had jointly obtained a land grant in what is present-day Cocke Co., Tennessee which was surveyed in 1807. This created a problem because Cocke County is a burned county—the courthouse burned to the ground and no records prior to 1867 are available. There were two saving graces to doing further research. One, Cocke County was formed from Jefferson County in 1796 and it is clear that Thomas and Seth Rodgers were residing there since 1789 so there are accounts of them in the Jefferson County records prior to 1796. Second, Thomas Rodgers sold his share of the land in Cocke County and moved to Jefferson County about 1814.

In fact, Thomas Rodgers’ homestead had lain just within the boundary of Jefferson County from Cocke County. When he died in 1819 he left a will that identified his wife and some of his children (Jefferson Co., TN Will Bk 2 p 236-237):

In the name of God, Amen. I, Thomas Rodgers, of Jefferson County and state of Tennessee, having advanced to that period of life when it becomes prudent in my Judgment to make some provision for the disposition of my worldly estate knowing that I must shortly leave it behind me and being at this time of sound mind do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament.

First, after my decease my desire is that my executors herein after named should see that I be decently buried according to my circumstances in life.

Secondly, my will and desire is and I do hereby bequeath to my son James White Rodgers (after my own and my wife Jane Rodgers death) the plantation whereon I now reside to him and his heirs forever.

Thirdly, my will and desire is and I do hereby bequeath unto my son Thomas Rodgers the tract of land I formerly lived on in Cocke County on the French Broad River generally called the Irish Bottom to him and his heirs forever.

Fourthly, as to my personal property now in my possession having heretofore disposed of some of it to my children respectively, my will is and I do hereby bequeath to my son James (after my decease and that of my wife Jane) one Negro boy named Alfred, also one feather bed and furniture and two horses at any time after my decease.

Fifthly, my will is that my wife Jane Rodgers should remain in possession of all the estate that I die possessed of both real and personal and not otherwise disposed of by this will during her natural life.

Sixthly, my desire is that after my decease and after the decease of my said wife the rest of my personal property should be equally divided betwixt my daughters Elizabeth Henderson and Jane Harrison, or in the event that either or both of them be dead, to their issue in the same proportion that their mothers would take under this will.

And lastly, I do nominate and appoint my son Isaac, my son Thomas, and my son James executors of this my last Will and Testament. Given under my hand this 22nd day of July in the year 1815.

Signed in the presence of:	Thomas Rodgers (seal)
Pleasant M. Miller	
Charles F. Keith	
Joseph Hamilton Jr.	
State of Tennessee	
	June Session 1819
Jefferson County	

Then was the last Will and Testament of Thomas Rodgers deceased duly proven in Open Court and recorded.

**Joseph Hamilton, Clerk
By his Deputy Jos Hamilton Jr.**

One of the first things that immediately stands out is that the wife of Thomas Rodgers was named Jane. Recall the will of Isaac White that was detailed on page 30 of this work. In 1775 at the writing of Isaac White's will, his daughter Jane was unmarried, but he did have a daughter named Elizabeth who had married a Rodgers. Circumstantial evidence had already suggested that Thomas Rodgers was the person who had married Elizabeth White, daughter of Isaac White. But by 1782 at the final settlement of the estate of Isaac White, his daughter Elizabeth White Rodgers had died, but it was also clear that his daughter Jane had married a Rodgers. It is now clear that Thomas Rodgers had first married Elizabeth White and when she died he then married her sister Jane White. This series of events can be proven since the Rodgers family cemetery has been identified in the small unincorporated community of Rankin in Cocke Co., Tennessee.

The will of Thomas Rodgers appointed his son Isaac Rodgers as one of the administrators of his estate. His full name was Isaac White Rodgers—he was named after his maternal grandfather. Isaac White Rodgers is buried in the Rodgers family cemetery and his tombstone states “Isaac White Rodgers died 25 April 1840 aged 74 years and 28 days [Note: The Cocke Co., TN cemetery book and Find a Grave website state that he died in 1810, but this is incorrect. His stone is very difficult to read, but newsprint rubbings of the stone clearly identify that he died in 1840, NOT 1810]. This means that Isaac White Rodgers, son of Thomas Rodgers (d. 1819), was born 28 Mar 1766. Supporting evidence is found on the 1840 census on page 282 which was taken before Isaac White Rodgers death—he is listed as being in the 70-80 age range, meaning a birth year of 1760-1770. Isaac White Rodgers clearly could not have been the son of Jane White Rodgers because she was definitely not married until after 1775. Elizabeth White, daughter of Isaac White, was the first wife of Thomas Rodgers who died prior to 1782; afterwards, Thomas Rodgers then married her sister, Jane White.

The Rodgers family cemetery in Rankin, TN appears to have been on the property of Seth Rodgers. His tombstone states that he died in September 1820—the day of the month is not legible even with rubbings; no age is stated. Next to him is the tombstone of his wife Sarah White Rodgers who died 20 Aug 1807 aged 50 years. Review of the tombstones in the graveyard do not seem to identify any children of Seth and Sarah White Rodgers. They appear to all be children of Thomas Rodgers or their descendants.

Up to this point, the only two proven children of George Rodgers (d. 1768) were Robert Rodgers and Seth Rodgers. Considering the mountain of evidence showing the connections between Thomas Rodgers (1748-1819) and Seth Rodgers (1746-1820), the fact that a number of the children of Thomas Rodgers are buried in the Rodgers family cemetery that was originally on the property owned by Seth Rodgers would seem to cement the likelihood that Thomas Rodgers and Seth Rodgers were brothers. In addition to this, descendants of Thomas Rodgers have

participated in the Rodgers surname project and have matched the G-M201 haplogroup with a genetic distance of 2 that represents the descendants of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton.

What is curious is that the will of Thomas Rodgers (1748-1819) does not mention all the names of his children. The will identifies the following children: Isaac White Rodgers, Thomas Rodgers Jr, James White Rodgers, Elizabeth Henderson, and Jane Harrison. But it can be proven that there was at least one other additional son by reviewing the will of George Rodgers (Jefferson Co., TN Will Bk 3 p 444-446). In this will he makes the following statement:

Item 5th Further as I have at different times given to my daughter Jean Ferriss a sum equal to fifteen or sixteen hundred dollars, I now do give unto my said daughter Jean Ferriss twenty acres of bottom land cleared now and under fences, acres of the head of my ____ field in Cock County adjoining my brother Isaac W. Rodgers' farm to assist her in raising her children for the time of eight or ten years and then to return back to my other Legatees whom I shall name in my devise.

The above statement from George Rodgers' will clearly identifies that he was a brother of Isaac White Rodgers, a known son of Thomas Rodgers (1748-1819), but he was not named in his father's will. There are two other individuals who are thought to be sons of Thomas Rodgers (1748-1819) that are not mentioned in his will. They are John White Rodgers (b. 1772 Augusta Co., VA d. 1819 Lawrence Co., AL) and Seth White Rodgers (b. 1784 Augusta Co., VA d. Apr 1846 Lawrence Co., AL). Descendants of both of these individuals participated in the Rodgers DNA project and matched the other descendants of Thomas Rodgers. Considering the Isaac White family connection and the fact that Thomas Rodgers gave almost all of his sons the middle name of White, and knowing that John White Rodgers had married Agnes Stockton Rogers, widow of Reuben Rogers, who was living in Jefferson Co., TN when her husband died in 1795, it seems a near certitude that John White Rodgers and Seth White Rodgers were also sons of Thomas Rodgers (1748-1819). Here is the proposed family of Thomas Rodgers:

Thomas Rodgers	+	Elizabeth White
b. ca 1748		b. ca 1748
m. ca 1766		
d. 16 Mar 1819 Jefferson Co., TN		d. ca 1779 Augusta Co., VA

Children:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---------|
| 1) Isaac White Rodgers | + | Unknown |
| b. 28 Mar 1766 Augusta Co., VA | | |
| d. 25 Apr 1840 Cocke Co., TN | | |
| 2) George Rodgers | + | Nancy |
| b. 1770 | | b. |
| d. 2 Jul 1836 Jefferson Co., TN | | d. |

3) John White Rodgers + Agnes “Nancy” Stockton
 b. 1772 Augusta Co., VA b. 19 Dec 1770 Botetourt Co., VA
 m. ca 1795
 d. ca 1819 Lawrence Co., AL d. 6 Feb 1852 Coles Co., IL

4) Thomas Rodgers + Mary Donelson
 b. ca 1777 Augusta Co., VA b. ???
 m. 15 Jan 1797 Jefferson Co., TN
 d. ??? d. ???

Thomas Rodgers (d. 1819) then remarried about 1780 to: Jane White
 b. ca 1760
 d. 24 Jul 1818

5) Elizabeth Rodgers + John Henderson
 b. ca 1782 Augusta Co., VA
 d. ???

6) Seth White Rodgers + Susanna Stockton
 b. 1784 Augusta Co., VA b. ca 1786 Sevier Co., TN
 d. Apr 1846 Lawrence Co., AL d. 1840-1846

7) Jane White Rodgers + Peter Harrison
 b. 3 Apr 1786 Cocke Co., TN b. ca 1786
 d. 13 Jul 1876 Jefferson Co., TN d. 1846-1850

8) James White Rodgers + Unknown
 b. ca 1790
 d. ???

Figure 10. The Family of Thomas Rodgers son of George Rodgers d. 1768, son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton

All of the known living patrilineal descendants of George Rodgers (d. 1768) descend through his son Thomas Rodgers (1748-1819). If Seth Rodgers had children then they are unknown—none appear to be buried in his cemetery. Since Seth Rodgers died in Cocke Co., TN in 1820, the records of his estate were lost in the courthouse fire of 1870. But it can be determined that the property that had been owned by Seth Rodgers came under the ownership of George Rodgers (1770-1836), son of Thomas Rodgers. It is not clear if he inherited it or paid the heirs of Seth Rodgers to obtain this property. No children of Seth Rodgers have been identified.

And as far as identifying a family for Robert Rodgers, son of George Rodgers (d. 1768), no clearly defined child of his has been identified. While canvassing records in Jefferson Co., TN,

the court case *John Anderson vs Robert Rogers* was found that was settled 20 Nov 1798 in which Robert Rogers was ordered to pay \$10.27 to John Anderson. The more interesting part of this case was that the summons dated 1st Monday of November 1797 was issued to the sheriff of Sevier County to bring him before the court. Sevier County lies to the south of both Jefferson and Cocke counties. It is thought that this likely represented the Robert Rodgers who was the son of George Rodgers (d. 1768) and that his actual residence was in Sevier County rather than Blount County. Sadly, Sevier County suffered a severe record loss due to a courthouse fire in 1856.

With that being said, there is one speculated possible son of Robert Rodgers. A lawsuit was found dated 1793 amongst the court records of Jefferson County, Tennessee entitled *James McDowell vs John Brown* in which John Brown was accused of destruction of property. On 28 Sep 1793 Hugh Rodgers posted bond for John Brown and guaranteed that he would appear in court. James McDowell also signed the bond agreeing to Hugh Rodgers' security to allow John Brown to be released to Hugh Rodgers' recognizance. In the April term 1794 this case was then transferred to the magistrate of the newly formed county of Sevier since all those mentioned individuals in this case were now residents of this county. There were several Rodgers families in the Sevier County area in the 1790's, particularly the family of Henry Rodgers—but he did not have a son named Hugh. In fact, none of the Rodgers families known to have been in Sevier County had a member named Hugh. And since the name Hugh is frequently seen amongst the descendants of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, it has been speculated that the Hugh Rodgers of this case might have been a son of Robert Rodgers (s/o George Rodgers d. 1768). Unfortunately, since the early court records of Sevier County were destroyed, nothing further was ever ascertained about Hugh Rodgers in the case *James McDowell vs John Brown*.

Other than the fact that Hugh Rodgers was also living in Sevier County, Tennessee, the court records may also suggest a direct connection between Hugh Rodgers and Robert Rodgers. In the July session 1792, Robert Rodgers and Hugh Rodgers served on the same jury together for the case of *James Furman vs William Small* (Jefferson County, TN Court Minutes Book 1 p 23). Obviously, one does not need to be related in order to serve on a jury together, but it does add credibility that Hugh Rodgers may have been a son of Robert Rodgers. It is mentioned here only as a possibility.

The Migration of the Children of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore to North Carolina

As outlined in the first section of this work, the children of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore as well as the children of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid migrated to North Carolina. It is clear that they did not all migrate at once, but clearly migrated in waves throughout the late 1740's and 1750's. The "Notes and Queries" article by William Henry Egle had stated that Joseph Rodgers had migrated to North Carolina before 1750. However, it has already been demonstrated that this is not true. Joseph Rodgers died sometime between 1746 and 1750; elements of his family have clearly been demonstrated as having remained in Pennsylvania until as late as 1757. The "Widow Rodgers" seen on the 1751 to 1757 tax lists is likely Martha Poore Rodgers, widow of Joseph Rodgers, and probably remained in Pennsylvania until her death. Hugh Rodgers died in 1758 in Hanover township in Old Lancaster, Pennsylvania and his inventory and appraisal was performed on 26 Jun 1758—the same day as the inventory and appraisal was performed on estate of Seth Rodgers (d. 1758). Zeno Campbell in his letter had also stated that he had thought that Hugh Rodgers (d. 1758) and Joseph Rodgers (d. 1746-1750) had migrated to North Carolina—mainly because all of his great aunts and uncles seemed to be in North Carolina during the Revolutionary War, just prior to his birth in 1787. But after 30 years of research, it has become clear that the extended Rodgers family emigrated in at least three different waves over a ten-year period.

Before delving into the specifics of the migration, it is important to understand the landscape of the Piedmont of North Carolina at the time of the first migration. When George Rodgers (d. 1768), son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, first migrated to Augusta Co., VA in the mid-late 1740's it was already established as a community. Staunton was first settled in 1732 and the "Old Wagon Trail" between Lancaster, PA and Staunton, VA was already well-traveled. Ferries and bridges allowed travel across rivers along the road. Merchants from Philadelphia made regular trips to Staunton for the purpose of trade. Clearly the settlers on the Shenandoah River in Augusta Co., VA were pioneers, but they still had access to goods and services similar to what they had had in Pennsylvania.

However, the early pioneers who migrated into the Piedmont of North Carolina were fundamentally different. This area was remote. Virtually no white people lived west of the Yadkin River before 1747. There were no roads or bridges in that time frame to allow for easy travel to Charleston, South Carolina which was over 200 miles away. A village of Catawba Indians existed in Mecklenburg Co., NC near the present-day South Carolina border and would have been the only source of trade for these early settlers. Before 1750, there were no tax collectors going west of the Yadkin River to collect from the few people that had settled in that region so there is no list of names of the early pioneers in official documents.

Robert Ramsey in his scholarly work Carolina Cradle: Settlement of the Northwest Carolina Frontier 1747-1762 (University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill 1964) cannot provide documentation of any settlements west of the Yadkin River prior to 1747. He does make this statement on page 23, "Memoranda preserved by the Clark family, which settled along the upper Cape Fear River before 1740, clearly indicated that a family or company of emigrants moved west across the Yadkin as early as 1746 to join 'some families that were living sequestered in

that fertile region.” However, on that same page in Carolina Cradle, Ramsey stated that in 1755 Governor Arthur Dobbs had visited the area in what is present-day Cabarrus and Mecklenburg counties where he had obtained 400,000 acres of land, and in his report to the Board of Trade in London had stated that there were seventy-five Scotch-Irish families and twenty-two German families living there that claimed to have been residing in that area for 7 or 8 years. Rather than have the squatters removed, over the course of the next ten years Arthur Dobbs forced them to either purchase the property from him or obtain formal land grants from the colony of North Carolina.

Zeno Campbell, a grandson of John Rodgers (son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore) and Martha Rodgers (daughter of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid), wrote about what life was like for his ancestors who were early settlers as part of the Rocky River settlement in his letter to his daughter in May 1865:

“More than one hundred years ago our people settled in Mecklenburg County in North Carolina. It was a new, wild place. They had no money, and no way of earning any. Charleston in South Carolina (which) was two hundred and twenty miles from them was their only trading place, and no road or ferry over the stream that intervened. They contented themselves to live without commerce. The range was as good as could be wished, and the climate mild and healthy. Their livestock multiplied and were fat with little care, and they raised corn, wheat, rye and oats, and all kinds of human food, such as turnips, cabbage, round and sweet potatoes, and without count measure or weight. They had milk and butter, pork, beef and venison more than they could consume. They eat (sic) all of these at home because they could not sell them. In the morning, the women would hand a pot over the fire for mush which was eaten both with butter and milk. The mush was dished out (onto a) wooden trencher or a black earthen dish made by the Catawba Indians, and a depression made in the middle and a large spoon full of butter put in, and this eaten—it is extremely good. Then after they had eaten quite a quantity of this, they filled milk in a noggin (which is a small wooden vessel made of staves and nicely hooped with small white hoops, or rather hoop, for mostly it had but one) and with a pewter spoon stirred in much, to please their different tastes, this was always their breakfast. Their dinner was boiled meat and turnip, cabbage or hominy with broth, and finished with milk and bread. Their supper was mush and milk. They rose early in the morning and went right to work till about eight o’clock, then came in to eat (sic) breakfast, and dined at noon, and eat (sic) their supper with fire light. I never saw a supper eaten with daylight till since I lived here. The women always milked the cows before sunrise in the morning in the summertime and set down and card (?) and spin a while before they prepared breakfast. The women made all the clothes worn everyday, there was no cloth in a store to buy if they had had the money to buy it with. The skins of their beasts the men tanned in troughs and curried with a drawing knife and then went to someone in the neighborhood who made shoes and got him to make it into shoes for his family. These were worn during the winter, and as soon as the Spring made its appearance, all feet were turned to grass: men, women, and boys. Mecklenburg County was settled chiefly with Presbyterians from Scotland or the North of Ireland, and they kept the peculiar forms of worship at home and at church, which they had been trained to observe in those countries. They observed the first day of the week, Sunday, as rigidly as the Jews ever did the Seventh. They never talked loud or laughed, they never baked a mouthful of bread on that day or shaved a beard off, or talked on any worldly subject whatever. They all read a chapter in the Bible, sang a hymn, said over a prayer every night and morning, as punctually as if their maker

had so commanded them. From whence they received instruction to worship in this manner, and at these times, I know not. They could not get it from the Bible for it is not there! But I think they thought it was, or at any rate ought to be. On Sunday evening the young ones were called on to answer their questions which were sometimes read from the shorter catechism but generally by or from memory. Their Sacramental meetings were held Spring and Fall Service bean (sic) on Friday, which was kept a fast. They would all rise in the morning, dress and go to church without eating one mouthful of food, and some who used tobacco went so far as to abstain from the use thereof till the sun went down. My grandfather Rogers threw away his tobacco on the fast day. They preached two sermons each day till Munday (sic) when they had one discourse and ended the meetings for that time.”

Based on the above statement by Zeno Campbell about lack of commerce and trade with the Indians, it is thought that his grandparents, John and Martha Rodgers, were among the first settlers to the Rocky River settlement about 1747. By 1755 the town of Salisbury as the county seat of Rowan County—and the end point for the “Old Wagon Trail”—was established and would have been a place to purchase supplies and sell their wares. So it seems quite clear that John and Martha Rodgers were there long before that.

Amongst those early squatters that were forced to purchase their land from Governor Arthur Dobbs was John Rodgers and Robert Rodgers:

**Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Bk 1, p. 88-91 24 Jun 1762, Gov Arthur Dobbs to Robert Rogers of Anson, planter, for £14 s9 138 acres between Coddle and Buffello Creeks
Witness: Martain Fifer, Wm. Powell**

**Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Bk 2, p. 681-682 25 Jun 1764, Gov Arthur Dobbs and wife to John Rodgers of Meck., for £8 s4...82 acres on both sides of English Bufilew Cr.
Witness: John Davis Jr., Arthur MacKay**

The Robert Rodgers listed above was probably the brother of John Rodgers and both were the eldest sons of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore. They had remained squatters for seemingly as long as was possible, roughly 12-17 years.

Before proceeding forward with the migrations, it will become confusing to the reader if one does not know who the individuals are that are being discussed. Below is the family of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore:

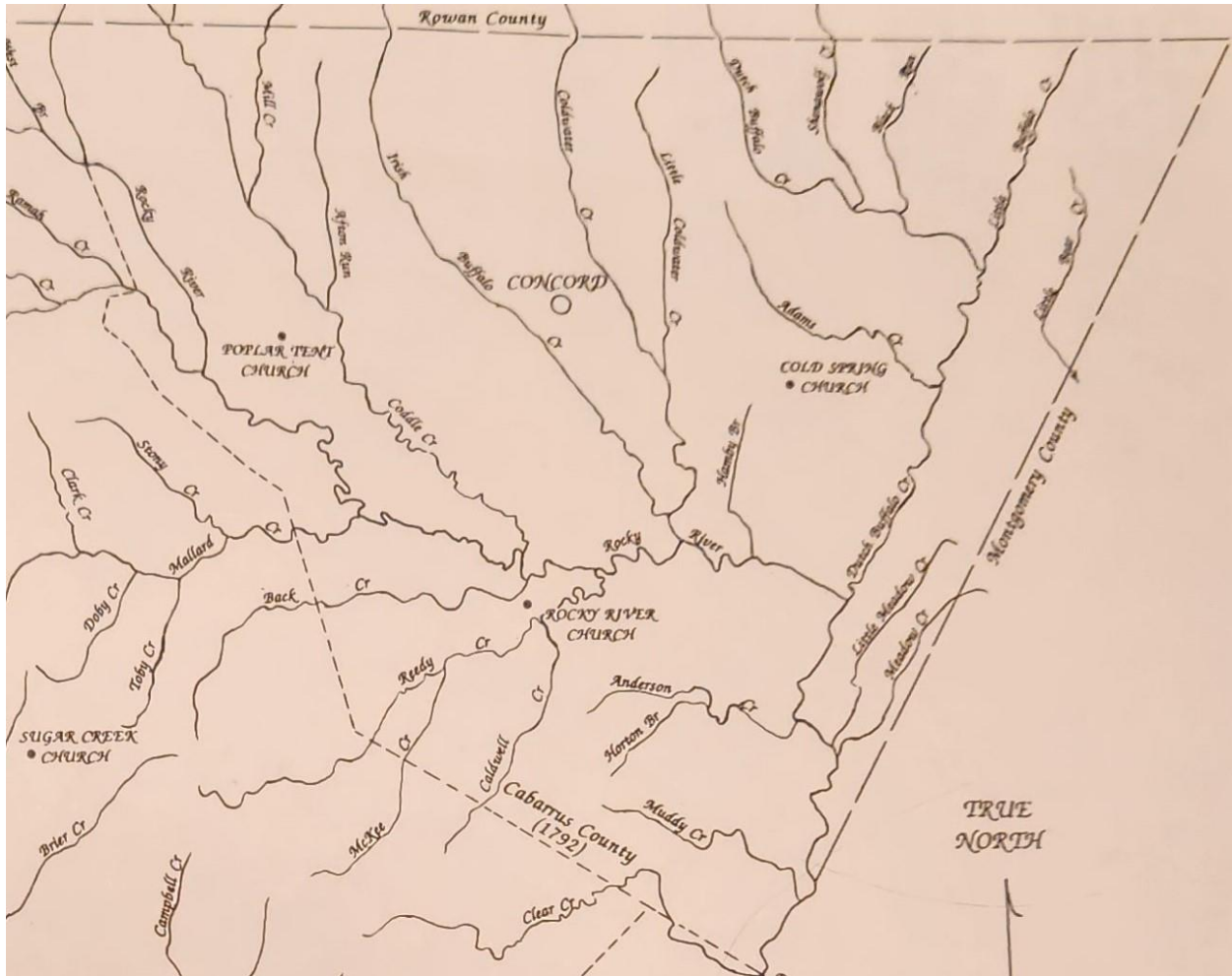
Joseph Rodgers	+	Martha Poore
b. ca 1695		b. ?
d. Between 1746 and 1750		d. After 1757

Children:

- 1) Robert Rodgers + Mary
b. ca 1715 b.
d. After 1775 d. After 1775
- 2) Frances Rodgers + Zaccheus Wilson
b. ca 1718 b. 1713
d. After 1795 Oglethorpe Co., GA d. 1796 Lexington, Oglethorpe Co., GA
- 3) John Rodgers + Martha Rodgers (d/o Hugh Rodgers)
b. ca 1720 b. 1722
d. Sep 1785 Mecklenburg Co., NC d. Sep 1785 Mecklenburg Co., NC
*Zeno Campbell's Grandparents
- 4) Martha Rodgers + James Barnett
b. 1722 b. ca 1725
m. 13 Oct 1747 Hanover twp, Lancaster Co., PA
d. 26 Sep 1775 Waxhaw, Lancaster Co., SC d. 1816 Caldwell Co., KY
- 5) William Rodgers
b. ???
d. ???
- 6) Elizabeth Rodgers + James Black
b. 1730 b. 1728
m. 7 Oct 1756 Hanover twp, Lancaster Co., PA
d. 1804 Cabarrus Co., North Carolina d. 21 Mar 1818 Cabarrus Co., NC
- 7) George Rodgers + Margaret
b. 1733 b. 1735
d. 29 Jan 1825 Cabarrus Co., NC d. 3 Jan 1831 Cabarrus Co., NC
- 8) Joseph Rodgers*
b. ???
d. ???
- 9) Margaret Rodgers + William James
b. ca 1735 b. ca 1730
m. 28 Jun 1754 Hanover twp, Lancaster Co., PA
d. After 1783 d. 1783 Burke Co., NC

Figure 11. The Family of Joseph Rodgers son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton

In addition to the names of the people who migrated, the places where they migrated is also important to know. The Rocky River settlement which was established in 1746-1747 lay primarily within the bounds of present-day Cabarrus Co., North Carolina. In 1734 this area was considered part of Bladen County, by 1750 was then part of Anson County, and by 1762 was part of Mecklenburg County.



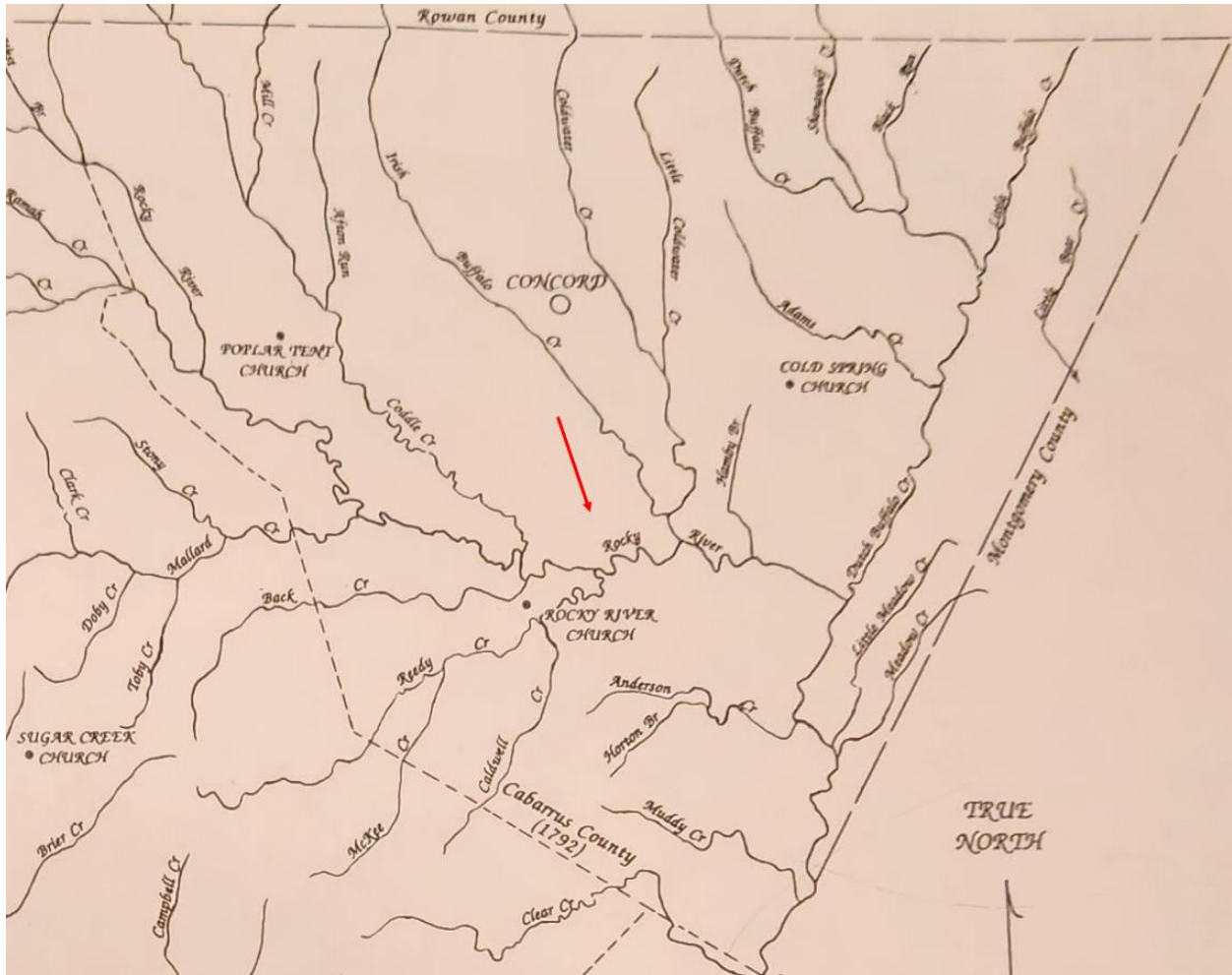


Figure 12. Cabarrus County NC Water Course Map

Above is a watercourse map of Cabarrus County Figure 12. Rocky River runs along the western border of present-day Cabarrus County down to the south central part of the county. The area where John and Robert Rodgers, the sons of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, had settled were between Coddle and Irish (or English) Buffalo Creeks (in the area of the red arrow).

There are no early records of the Rocky River settlement. If anything was recorded in Bladen County, those records were lost in a courthouse fire. The first quasi-census was when Governor Arthur Dobbs went to Cabarrus and Mecklenburg Counties in 1755 to survey his 400,000 tract which encompassed all of Cabarrus and about 2/3 of present-day Mecklenburg County. Only a few of those early pioneers obtained legal rights to their land while this area was part of Anson County. After 1760, the squatters were forced to either purchase their land or leave. From 1760 to 1765, most of those early settlers obtained legal rights to their land that they had been living on for a decade or more. As shown in the previous deeds, Robert Rodgers purchased his 138 acres of land between Coddle and English Buffalo Creeks from Arthur Dobbs in 1762, and John Rodgers purchased his land on English Buffalo Creek from Arthur Dobbs in 1764.

The lack of contemporary records has made research into the early settlers extremely difficult. This author has had to use secondary sources which largely contain tradition or legend, or make inferences through indirect evidence. As such, this author cannot make absolute conclusions but is left to rely on the preponderance of evidence. For example, the “Notes and Queries” article by William Henry Egle had stated that Joseph Rodgers had gone to North Carolina prior to 1750. Although this has been shown to be incorrect, it is clear that some of his children did. John Rodgers, son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, and Martha Rodgers, daughter of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid, were married and already had had at least two children before 1750. John Rodgers is not seen on the 1751 tax list, nor is he seen on the 1754 petition for the Paxtang Presbyterian Church. It is safe to assume that he was no longer in Pennsylvania. The description of the life of John Rodgers and his wife Martha from the Zeno Campbell letter certainly seems to imply that he was residing in North Carolina before any local governmental authority or even any trading posts were established. It seems highly likely that he was one of the early settlers of the Rocky River settlement. Below is the family of John and Martha Rodgers:

John Rodgers	+	Martha Rodgers
b. ca 1720		b. ca 1722
m. ca 1745 Hanover twp, Old Lancaster Co., PA		
d. Sep 1785		d. Sep 1785

Children:

1) Hugh Rodgers	+	Mary Houston
b. About 1745		b.
d. After 1798 (?1829 Lawrence Co., AL)		d.
Children: William (died before 1830 in Tennessee), Martha (b. 1787)		

2) Joseph Rodgers
 b. About 1748
 d. 1781 (died of Camp Fever during the Revolutionary War)

3) Elizabeth Rodgers	+	William Goodwin Balch
b. 13 Mar 1753		b. 1751 Deer Creek, Maryland
m. ca 1772 Mecklenburg Co., NC		

d. 22 Aug 1831 Coles Co., IL

d. 14 Oct 1822 in Lawrence Co., AL

Children: Hezekiah James (b. 21 Mar 1780), Martha Rodgers (b. 1783), Theron Eusebius
(b. 22 Dec 1787), Philonides (b. 1790), Ann Kincade (b. 8 Jan 1794)

4) Sarah "Sallie" Rodgers +

William Sample Alexander

b.1756 Mecklenburg Co., NC

b. 1751 Chester Co., PA

m. 2 Apr 1798

d. 27 Nov 1799 Cabarrus Co., NC

d. 26 Oct 1826 Cabarrus Co., NC

5) Seth Rodgers +

Eliza Martha Rodgers

b. 1757

b. 18 Apr 1766

d. 21 Jan 1832 Cabarrus Co., NC

d. 21 Dec 1834 Cabarrus Co., NC

Children: Diogenes (b. 6 Jan 1787), Parmenio (b. 30 Nov 1788), Robert (b. Jul 1790), Ozni
(b. Sep 1792), Eri (b. 26 Aug 1795), Thomas (b. 16 Mar 1797), Israel (b. 16 Mar 1797)

6) Margaret Rodgers +

William Barnett

b. About 1759

b. 1760

d. 29 Oct 1784

d. 1832 Wayne Co., TN

Children: Martha (b. 1784)

7) Martha Rodgers +

Z. Andrew Campbell

b. 1760

b. 1755

d. 1831 Coles Co., IL

d. 14 Oct 1796

Children: J. Zeno (b. 31 Dec 1787), Eugenio (b.25 Oct 1789), Callistus
(b. 1790-1794), Lewis (b. 1794)

*Zeno Campbell's Parents

8) Frances "Fannie" Rodgers +

Joseph Andrew White

b. 1765

b. 1760

d. 7 Sep 1823 Cabarrus Co., NC

d. 6 Oct 1842 Cabarrus Co., NC

Children: Susan, John Rodgers, Aquinas (b. 19 Sep 1799 NC)

9) John Kincade Rodgers

b. ca 1770

d. 1791 Mecklenburg Co., NC (died when the wagon he was in overturned)

Figure 13. The Family of John Rodgers son of Joseph Rodgers son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton

Little is known of Robert Rodgers who is thought to be the eldest son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, but he obtained legal ownership of his land between Buffalo and Coddle Creeks before his brother John did. He is also thought to have been part of the original migration that resulted in the settling of the Rocky River settlement. However, he sold his land in 1775 and moved away.

**Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Book 7, p. 66-68) 17 Jan 1775, Robert Rodgers, Yeoman, of Meck., to David Purvance for £200, 138 acres between Codle and Bufilo Creek...Robert Rodgers (Seal), Mary Rodgers (Seal)
Witness: James Black, John Kean (or Kear)
Proven April 1775 by ____ Kearr**

From the above deed, it is known that the wife of Robert Rodgers, son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, was named Mary. Nothing is known of his family. It is unclear where he moved.

However, John and Robert Rodgers were not the only members of the extended Rodgers family that moved to the Carolina's at an early date. From the Zeno Campbell letter it is known that Martha Rodgers, daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, had married James Barnett. And indeed a marriage record has been found from the records of Rev. John Casper Stoeber that confirms this. This author has done independent research on the family of James Barnett as I am related to his son William Barnett on both my paternal and maternal lines. The results of my research were published in an article entitled "Proposed Ancestry of William Barnett" in the *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research* summer edition 2008 pp 123-138. James Barnett (1725-1816) has been identified as a son of John (d. ca 1758) and Ann Barnett (d. After 1771) of the Waxhaws. John Barnett, father of James Barnett, obtained his land grant for 599 acres on Waxhaw Creek from Anson Co., NC on 23 Feb 1754 (North Carolina Land Grant Book 2 p. 95). However, ultimately when the border dispute was resolved between North and South Carolina in 1772 this land would actually lie mostly in Lancaster County, South Carolina except for 150 acres which was in York Co., SC. The Waxhaw Presbyterian Church was built on the land originally owned by John Barnett. He sold the entire 599 acre tract of land to Rev. Robert Miller, the first minister of the Waxhaw Presbyterian Church, on 27 Mar 1757 (Anson Co., NC Deed Bk 5, pp 136-137) and then Rev. Robert Miller sold 595 acres of that tract back to James

Barnett, son of John and Ann Barnett, on 23 Feb 1758 (Anson Co., NC Deed Bk 5, pp. 125-127).
Here is the family of James Barnett and Martha Rodgers:

James Barnett	+	Martha Rodgers
b. ca 1725		b. 1722
m. 13 Oct 1747 Hanover twp, Old Lancaster Co., PA (present-day Dauphin County)		
d. 1816 Caldwell Co., KY		d. 26 Sep 1775 Lancaster Co., SC

Children:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| 1) Ann Barnett | + | Hugh Rodgers (s/o Hugh Rodgers d 1758) |
| b. 1747-1750 | | b. 1736 |
| d. ca 1832 | | d. 2 Aug 1830 |
| 2) Samuel Barnett | | |
| b. 1752 | | |
| d. 23 Nov 1774 | | |
| 3) Joseph Barnett | | |
| b. 1755 | | |
| d. 12 Feb 1779 | | |
| 4) James Barnett | | |
| b. 1757 | | |
| d. 22 Sep 1776 | | |
| 5) William Barnett | + | Margaret Rodgers (d/o John Rodgers d 1785) |
| b. 1760 | | b. 1759 Mecklenburg Co., NC |
| d. 1832 Wayne Co., TN | | d. 29 Oct 1784 Lancaster Co., SC |

Note: James Barnett then remarried ca 1778 to:

Margaret _____

b. Before 1755

d. Between 1802 and 1810

Children: Francis Barnett (b. ca 1779), Samuel Barnett (b. 1783 d. After 1860), Claiborne Barnett (b. Before 1786), Sarah Barnett (b. 1788), John Barnett (b. 14 Apr 1790), James Barnett Jr. (b. 1796), Sophia Barnett (b. ca 1800)

Figure 14. The Family of James Barnett and Martha Rodgers (daughter of Joseph Rodgers son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton)

What is interesting is that the marriage record of Rev. John Casper Stoeber identified that James Barnett was “of Conococheague.” The Conococheague settlement was one of the earliest settlements of the Cumberland Valley—Benjamin Chambers, the first settler and founder of Chambersburg, arrived in 1726 with his two brothers—it is located in present-day Montgomery township of Franklin Co., Pennsylvania near the Maryland state line. This is over 70 miles away from where the Rodgers family lived in Hanover township. Review of the early land warrants shows that John Barnett, father of James Barnett, had obtained a very early land warrant on Conococheague creek in Pennsylvania on 24 Oct 1738. There was also a William Barnett who obtained a land warrant on the Conococheague creek near John Barnett on 12 May 1742 and was followed by Robert Barnett on 21 May 1746. But how did Martha Rodgers come into contact with James Barnett, son of John and Ann Barnett, when he lived so far away from Hanover township?

Further research would show that there was also a William and Robert Barnett living in Hanover township of Old Lancaster County, PA. There was a Robert Barnett who obtained a land warrant for 200 acres of land in Hanover township dated 9 Jun 1738. His land warrant application stated that his land was “situated in Hanover township adjoining William Barnett and Thomas Leddington.” However, when the survey was reviewed for this land it actually had “Robert Bernard” as the owner of the land and the property was adjacent the land of William Bernard. At first this was thought to be an error. But when this land was ultimately patented to Christian Hunsicker on 24 Jun 1822 (Pennsylvania Land Patent Book H20 p. 231) it specifically states “said tract of land was surveyed in pursuit of a warrant granted to Robert Barnet (alias Bernard) where right in the same by virtue of sundry conveyances and assignments became vested in the said Christian Hunsicker.” This proves that the Barnet family, for whatever reason, was using the alias surname Bernard during the 1730’s and 1740’s. There is a land warrant application for William Barnard dated 27 Jan 1743—“150 acres of land situated in Hanover township adjoining the lands of Joseph Wilson and William Rodgers on Manada Creek.” The neighbor of this William Barnett/Barnard was in fact the same William Rodgers that has been proposed as being another unidentified son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton or possibly the son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore earlier in this work. This author strongly suspects the William and Robert Barnett of Hanover township are the same individuals who also obtained land warrants in the Conococheague settlement.

My hypothesis is that Robert Barnett sold his land in Hanover township in the 1740’s and moved to the Conococheague settlement to be near John Barnett who was of some relation. The 1751 Peters township tax list (where the Conococheague settlement was at that time—Montgomery township was not formed until 1785) shows William Barnett and Robert Barnett; John Barnett is missing. Most likely John Barnett moved with his family to the Waxhaws prior to 1751. One thing that complicates this theory is that the 1751 Hanover township tax list shows that William Barnett was there. But it is known that the William Barnett seen on the 1751 Peters township tax list did not remain there—he is only seen there that one year. So it is theoretically possible that if he moved back to Hanover township in the year 1751, depending on when the taxes were collected, it would have been possible that he had to pay the tax in both places.

This seems to provide a legitimate connection between the families of Hanover township and Peters township which would allow for Martha Rodgers, daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, to come into contact with James Barnett. They then married in 1747 and moved with the family of John and Ann Barnett to the Waxhaws before 1751.

Frances Rodgers Wilson, daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, was known to be in North Carolina at an early date. The will of Seth Rodgers (d. 1758), son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, that was written in 1757 left 5 pounds in his will to his niece Frances Wilson “living in Carolina.” Her husband Zaccheus Wilson obtained land patent #1133 from the colony of North Carolina for 431 acres on Sugar Creek in Anson Co., NC (the parent county of Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties)—the patent was dated 24 Sep 1754. However, the book Historical Sketch of Poplar Tent Church by William S. Harris (1924) stated that Zaccheus Wilson was one of the earliest settlers of Cabarrus County and was a charter member of the church. According to the book, the church was formed in 1751 when the Rev. John Thompson brought a number of members of the Tinkling Spring Church in Augusta County, Virginia to settle in North Carolina. It seems likely that Zaccheus Wilson was in Cabarrus County before 1751 and may have been part of the original migration with John and Robert Rodgers, sons of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, or arrived within a year or two after his brothers-in-law did.

Zaccheus Wilson is a special case as much has been written about him. He was one of the signers of “Mecklenburg Resolves” in 1775 that has been labelled as the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. His son, Zaccheus Wilson Jr (1742-1824), was a captain during the Revolutionary War. There is an article written about Capt Zaccheus Wilson in a book entitled The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, May 20, 1775, and the Lives of its Signers by George Washington Graham MD (The Neale Publishing Company, 1905) on pages 117-120:

The Wilson’s were of Scotch-Irish Presbyterian stock, and were among the early settlers of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, where Zaccheus Wilson was born, probably as early as about 1735 or 1740. When he grew up to man's estate, he was not "little of statue" as Zaccheus of old - for like nearly all of that numerous connection, his person was of full medium size, rather heavily framed, and possessing great power in the vigor of life. He received but a limited education, and while yet quite young settled with his parents in the Poplar Tent region, originally a part of Mecklenburg , now Cabarrus County. This was prior to March, 1753. He had a younger sister who married Capt. Stephen Alexander, who survived till the age of 90 - the chronicler of her region. Zaccheus Wilson had three brothers two of whom were Robert and David, and three sisters. Reared on the frontier, Zaccheus and his brothers were not the men to have shirked any duty in aiding in the defense of the country.

There is this subtext in the book regarding the above statement:

These are the memories of Rev. Nicholas Ross Morgan that were conveyed in letters written to Lyman Draper in 1875. Rev. Morgan was born in 1789 and died in 1881. His mother was Jane Ross who married Enoch Morgan. The sons of Captain Zaccheus Wilson and wife Lizzie Conger Ross were John Wilson and Jonathan Wilson.

Lyman Draper was collecting information for a book he intended to write concerning the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Rev. Morgan stated he lived near and knew several of the signers

before they died, especially Zaccheus Wilson who had married the widow Elizabeth "Lizzie" Ross. He stated that when Zaccheus Wilson moved to Tennessee he left behind his two sisters, Robert Harris' wife (Mary) and Capt. Stephen Alexanders wife (Martha). Rev. Morgan married Mary Wilson Alexander, a granddaughter of Robert Harris and Mary Wilson, and also a granddaughter of Abraham Alexander and Dorcas Wilson.

This has created a great deal of confusion amongst the descendants of Zaccheus Wilson. Carol Wilson Myers, a large contributor to the "Wilson Family Genealogy" website, and Wilburn Dennis Wright, the author of The Saga of Zaccheus Wilson (1713-1796), have argued extensively over who the captain in the Revolutionary War was and who the signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was as well as the ancestry of Zaccheus Wilson and his descendents. There were multiple Zaccheus Wilson's in Mecklenburg Co., NC during the Revolutionary era and it was a very difficult project to sort them all out. Carol Wilson Myers argued that her ancestor Captain Zaccheus Wilson (1742-1824) was the brother of Robert Wilson and Col. David Wilson mentioned in the above article. Wilburn Dennis Wright had clearly made errors in his book which called his conclusions into question. However, proof that it was Zaccheus Wilson Sr (1713-1796) who was in fact the signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence could be found in the Revolutionary War Pension Application of Robert Wilson Jr, son of Robert Wilson Sr, when his widow Jane McDowell Wilson filed for a pension while a resident of Williamson Co., TN in 1838 (application #W216). The affidavit of Moses Wilson, Jane McDowell Wilson's brother-in-law, filed in Marshall Co., TN on 31 Oct 1848 on his sister-in-law's behalf had stated the following:

Witness remembers some of the events of the Revolutionary War especially those connected with his own family and neighborhood. He knows seven of his older brothers were soldiers at different and various times during the Revolutionary War to wit, Joseph, Aaron, John, James, Robert, Samuel & Zaccheus. He also knows that his own father Robert Wilson was a prisoner in the hands of the British in fall of 1780 and that his Uncle Zaccheus Wilson, Sr. was a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, yet he does not think that he can at this late period in his life recollect all and each campaign in which his brothers may have served in the war.

However, I also believe that the recollections of Rev. Nicholas Ross Morgan, a grandson of Zaccheus Wilson Jr., were confused about the family history of who the three brothers were that came from Pennsylvania. The Robert Wilson who was the purported brother of the signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, was a member of the Steele Creek Presbyterian Church in Mecklenburg Co., NC where he is buried. His tombstone only states that he died 14 Dec 1793—no age is stated on the tombstone and those that thought he was a brother of Captain Zaccheus Wilson (son of Zaccheus Wilson Sr) estimated his year of birth as 1730. Rev. Nicholas Ross Morgan insisted that he was the brother of Zaccheus Wilson Jr. But in 2018 a descendant of Robert Wilson produced the family bible of one of the children of Robert Wilson and it recorded his birth date as 14 Dec 1717. This would make it impossible for him to have been a son of Zaccheus Wilson Sr who was born about 1713. Family tradition is a great thing—much can be learned that cannot be obtained through any other source. However, it is quite clear from the papers of Nicholas Ross Morgan that although he knew about 3 brothers who came from Pennsylvania, he did not know the name of the father of Captain Zaccheus Wilson. He confused information between Zaccheus Wilson Sr and Zaccheus Wilson Jr. Family tradition

had preserved that three brothers came from Pennsylvania, but it is now clear that it was Zaccheus Wilson Sr who was the signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and had come to North Carolina with his brothers Robert and David—and it was his son Zaccheus Wilson Jr who was the captain during the Revolutionary War.

The ancestry of Zaccheus Wilson Sr had been hotly debated by numerous genealogists over the course of the 20th century. There are no records in the way of actual documentation to state who his parents were. However, according to The American Compendium of Genealogy Vol. 5 by Frederick Adams Virkus (1933) on page 98, Zaccheus Wilson was the son of John Wilson and Sarah Reed. John Wilson was born about 1680 and immigrated to Pennsylvania in the 1730's. He was a member of the Silver Springs Presbyterian Church in East Pennsboro township of what is present-day Cumberland Co., PA and is buried there in an unmarked grave (death date is not known). This is purportedly the family tradition that was relayed by Elizabeth Carothers (b. 25 Oct 1871 Oregon d. 10 Jun 1940 Albany, Linn Co., OR) who was a great great granddaughter of Zaccheus Wilson. Elizabeth Carothers was a Mormon who had moved to Salt Lake City, Utah at a young age to research her family history before the turn of the 20th century. It is possible that she had access to family letters and other documents that may have supported what she later wrote when she submitted her family history to Frederick Virkus in 1930.

The above story is at least partially corroborated by Rev. Nicholas Ross Morgan when he had stated that Zaccheus Wilson with his brothers Robert and David Wilson had come from Cumberland Co., PA to North Carolina before 1750. Rev. Morgan had written this in letters to Lyman Draper in 1875, but he did not know who the parents of Zaccheus Wilson were. The earliest tax list of East Pennsboro township is 1751 and does not show John Wilson, so presumably he was deceased by this time. However, there is an account of John Wilson in the book James Silver and his Community by R H White (1969). James Silver was the earliest settler west of the Susquehanna River, having settled in what is present-day East Pennsboro township in 1729. He named Silver Spring after himself and the church that came into existence in 1734 was named after the spring that served the community. Rev. John Thompson was appointed to the Silver Spring Presbyterian Church on 10 Dec 1735, but Rev Thompson reported back that he “did not fulfill the assignment by reason of the severity of the season and the scarcity of the provender in those parts.” This raised a question as to the need for a church in that area. On page 7 of the book, the Donegal Presbytery appointed John Wilson as commissioner to assess the population of the Silver Spring Community and to determine if the church could support a full-time minister:

“Just how many people were able to attend such services is unknown for we have no records of the number of people living in this area. It is enlightening to know how large a radius of the community was served at these meetings. One of the commissioners appointed by the Presbytery was John Wilson, who lived on the south side of the hill overlooking Shawna Creek. This would mean that he traveled the Indian path to Church, a distance of 7 or 8 miles and probably walked both ways.”

John Wilson never obtained a land warrant in Cumberland County, PA. There is a land warrant for Robert Wilson dated 26 Apr 1738 for “200 acres adjoining Alexander Frazier on Yellow

Breeches Creek in Pennsboro township” that is presumably the son of John Wilson and brother to Zaccheus Wilson. This property was never surveyed or patented. Although there does seem to be some corroboratory evidence that there was a John Wilson in East Pennsboro township and there is evidence of Robert Wilson (brother of Zaccheus Wilson) living there, this does not constitute proof that there was any family connection between John Wilson and Zaccheus Wilson.

That having been said, if the family tradition is correct and Zaccheus Wilson was the son of John Wilson who was living in East Pennsboro township during the 1730’s and 1740’s, this does offer some opportunity for Frances Rodgers, daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, to have come into contact with Zaccheus Wilson. East Pennsboro township is immediately west of the Susquehanna River from present-day Dauphin Co., PA where Hanover township is. In the 1740’s, Pennsboro township would have shared a border with Paxtang township of Old Lancaster County, PA. Harrisburg was established as a trading post in 1719 and was north only a few miles from where the Rodgers family lived in Hanover township. All those living west of the Susquehanna River would have had to purchase supplies in Harrisburg or they would have had to travel much further south to the town of Lancaster. In addition, it seems likely that William Wilson of Hanover township who died in 1738 and was father to James and Hugh Wilson, who were so closely tied to the Rodgers family, was probably related to John Wilson of East Pennsboro township. Robert Rodgers Jr (d. 1745) was essentially a foster parent to James Wilson, son of William Wilson. And James Wilson did the inventory and appraisements for the estates of both Seth Rodgers and Hugh Rodgers in 1758. At this point, it is unknown exactly how Frances Rodgers (daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore) met Zaccheus Wilson.

Zaccheus Wilson Sr obtained his first land on Sugar Creek in present-day Mecklenburg County, NC in 1754. Zaccheus Wilson Jr had purchased his land on Coddle Creek from David Alexander on 20 Jan 1768 (Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Book 3 pp 44-45). This would have been very near his other Rodgers relatives. In 1794, Zaccheus Wilson Sr sold some of his property in Mecklenburg Co., NC and moved to Oglethorpe Co., GA leaving a will. He wrote his will on 20 Oct 1795 and it was proven in the Oglethorpe County Court on 3 Jun 1796. His wife, Frances Rodgers Wilson, was still living at the writing of the will and his son, Zaccheus Wilson Jr, was appointed the administrator of the estate and charged with caring for his elderly mother. The family of Zaccheus Wilson and Frances Rodgers is shown below:

Zaccheus Wilson	+	Frances Rodgers
b. ca 1713		b. ca 1718
m. ca 1738		
d. 1796 Oglethorpe Co., GA		d. After 1795 Oglethorpe Co., GA

Children:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1) Zaccheus Wilson Jr
b. 1742
d. 9 Apr 1824 Sumner Co., TN | + | Elizabeth Conger Ross
b.
d. 1796 |
| 2) James Wilson
b. ca 1744
d. 1798 | + | Rachel Bird |
| 3) Isaac Wilson
b. ca 1745
d. After 1805 | + | Katie Grammer |
| 4) Mary Wilson
b. 1746
d. 10 Nov 1792 Cabarrus Co., NC | + | Robert Harris
b. 1737
d. 22 Mar 1803 Cabarrus Co., NC |
| 5) Margaret Wilson
b. ca 1747
d. | + | James Walker |
| 6) Joseph Wilson
b. ca 1749
d. 4 Feb 1833 | + | Nancy Ferguson |
| 7) William Wilson
b. ca 1750
d. | + | Jane Stansbury |
| 8) Anny Wilson
b. ca 1752
d. After 1800 | | |
| 9) Martha Wilson
b. 30 Mar 1754
d. 12 Sep 1843 Cabarrus Co, NC | + | Stephen Alexander
b. 16 Jun 1749
d. 26 Jun 1831 Cabarrus Co., NC |

Figure 15. The family of Zaccheus Wilson and Frances Rodgers (daughter of Joseph Rodgers, son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton)

Evidence has shown that of the children of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore; Robert Rodgers with his wife Mary, John Rodgers and his wife Martha, Martha Rodgers and husband James Barnett, as well as Frances Rodgers and husband Zaccheus Wilson, all arrived in the Carolina's before 1750. George Rodgers, son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, had first migrated to Virginia by 1754 to be near his uncle, George Rodgers (d. 1768), before then moving to Bedford Co., VA by 1771. The last of the children of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore then migrated to North Carolina about 1757-1758.

Elizabeth Rodgers, daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, married James Black in Hanover township, Old Lancaster Co., PA on 7 Oct 1756, as preserved in the records of Rev. John Casper Stoeber. James Black does not appear in the Hanover township tax lists in Pennsylvania after 1757. It is not entirely clear when they arrived in North Carolina. They obtained their property on Coddle Creek from David Oliphant on 9 Jun 1779 (Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Bk 10 pp 232-233). However, from review of later census records of their children and grandchildren, it appears that all of their children were born North Carolina. James Black was born in 1728 in County Derry, Ireland and he died 21 Mar 1818—he is buried in the Old Rocky River cemetery. There is no tombstone for his wife, Elizabeth Rodgers Black, but according to information from her descendants she was born about 1730 and died in 1804 in Cabarrus Co., NC. Their children are as follows: Thomas Black (b. 1759 Anson Co., NC), William Black (b. 1762 Mecklenburg Co., NC), Joseph Black (b. 18 Jan 1763 Mecklenburg Co., NC), Robert Black (b. 20 Aug 1767 Mecklenburg Co., NC), John Black (b. 1768 Mecklenburg Co., NC), Samuel Black (b. 7 Nov 1769), and Elizabeth Black (b. 1771 Mecklenburg Co., NC).

Margaret Rodgers, daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, married William James in Hanover township, Old Lancaster Co., PA on 28 Jun 1754, as preserved in the records of Rev. John Casper Stoeber. They had migrated to Rowan Co., NC—William James is seen on the 1759 Rowan Co., NC tax list. However, the area where William and Margaret Rodgers James lived would become part of Burke County when it was formed in 1777. William James obtained a land grant from the state of North Carolina on 7 Dec 1778 for 500 acres on the north side of the Catawba River (North Carolina Land Grant Bk 50 p 237). Unfortunately, Burke County suffered a severe record loss as a result of a courthouse fire in 1865 and all of the early deed and probate books were lost. However, some loose paper files still exist. William James died in 1783 and the administration bond still exists for his estate—Margaret James signed as executrix and was also given surety by William James 3rd on 22 Apr 1783. This piece of information seems to support that William James, husband of Margaret Rodgers, was actually the son of another William James. Due to the record loss, it may not be possible to identify all of the children of William James and Margaret Rodgers. It is thought that William James 3rd had married Ann Airwood on 2 Dec 1784 in Lincoln Co., NC—he died in Iredell Co., NC in 1826. There was a James James who provided surety to the marriage bond of William James to Ann Airwood who is thought to be a brother to William James 3rd. Other candidates for children of Margaret Rodgers and William James include Joseph Rogers James (b. 1756 d. 4 Sep 1838 Owen Co., IN) and Rollings James (b. 1760 Rowan Co., NC d. 1838 Campbell Co., TN).

The last child of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore to arrive in North Carolina was George Rodgers and his wife Margaret. Based on the 1850 census of their son John Rodgers, George and Margaret Rodgers had arrived in Cabarrus County about 1776; their daughter Susanna was born in Bedford Co., VA in 1774. George Rodgers is identified in Bedford Co., VA in the court records. During the September session 1771, George Rodgers is “appointed surveyor of the road in the room of John Thompson” (Bedford Co., VA Court Order Bk 3 p. 794). However, it is apparent that he had accumulated debt and is then seen on sheriff’s list of garnishee’s in the August session 1773 (Bedford Co., VA Court Order Bk 5 p. 164). Apparently things continued to worsen for him. During the November session 1773, George Rodgers was replaced as the surveyor by William Gill and was once again sought out by the sheriff to cover his debts. His wife Margaret was brought before the court to see if she was able to cover any of his debts and she said she “hath none of the defendant’s estate in her hands” (Bedford Co., VA Court Order Bk 5 p. 215). It has become clear that the reason that George Rodgers moved to Cabarrus County, NC was because he was destitute and needed the assistance of his family.

If George Rodgers Jr from Augusta Co., VA was in fact the son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, it is unclear why he sold his land in 1762 and moved away. He clearly stayed in Virginia, but is not seen in the Bedford Co., VA records until 1771. There is no evidence he owned any land there. The most likely scenario is that he sold his property in Augusta Co., VA for the purpose of some business venture and that it ultimately failed.

George Rodgers lived near Coldwater Creek outside of the town of Concord. On the 1790 Mecklenburg Co., NC census, he is listed very close to Captain Joseph Shinn who owned over 1000 acres of land in that area and it is believed that George Rodgers likely rented property from him. George Rodgers attended the Mount Olivet United Methodist Church in Concord, NC—he and his wife Margaret are buried in the church cemetery. Here is what is known of his family:

George Rodgers	+	Margaret _____
b. 1733		b. 1735
d. 29 Jan 1825 Cabarrus Co., NC		d. 3 Jan 1831 Cabarrus Co., NC

Children:

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 1) Unknown Rodgers | + | Unknown |
| b. ca 1761 | | |
| d. Before 1800 | | |
| Children: William Rodgers (b. 1792 d. After 1870) | | |
| 2) Susannah Rodgers | + | John Glover |
| b. 1774 Bedford Co., VA | | b. 26 Aug 1775 Northampton Co NC |
| m. 25 Sep 1794 Rowan Co., NC | | |
| d. 10 Oct 1854 Cabarrus Co., NC | | d. 1828 Iredell Co, NC |

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 3) John Rodgers
b. Aug 1776 Cabarrus Co., NC
m. 2 Feb 1805 Cabarrus Co., NC
d. 23 Jul 1864 Cabarrus Co., NC | + | Margaret James
b. 26 May 1783 Burke Co., NC

d. 19 May 1869 Cabarrus Co., NC |
| 4) Mary Rodgers
b. 1780 North Carolina
d. ??? | + | Joseph Yates
b. ???
d. ??? |
| 5) Elizabeth Rodgers
b. 1784 Cabarrus Co., NC
m. 17 Nov 1814 Cabarrus Co., NC
d. 9 Oct 1843 Cabarrus | + | John McKinley
b. 12 Feb 1782 Cabarrus Co., NC

d. 22 May 1853 Cabarrus Co., NC |

Figure 16. The Family of George Rodgers son of Joseph Rodgers son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton

The courthouse fire of 1876 destroyed the early probate records prior to 1840, so there is no will or estate settlement to definitively identify the heirs of George Rodgers. Based on the 1790 census, he should have had 2 additional daughters. Most of the known children were identified by church records from the Mt Olivet United Methodist Church. An older son of George Rodgers (1733-1825) was identified through the will of John Rodgers (1776-1864) when he left \$100 to “William Rodgers, my brother’s son.” Estate documents confirmed that this William Rodgers was living in Rowan Co., NC when he collected his inheritance. It should be noted that George Rodgers was living in Rowan Co., NC for a few years during the 1780’s and is seen on the 1782 tax list in Griffith Rutherford’s District with 2 white pols. The second pol is almost certainly the father of William Rodgers (b. 1792)—his name is not known. Also on this same tax list is Andrew Bostian, the father of Mary Bostian who married William Rodgers (b. 1792) on 19 Dec 1818 in Rowan Co., NC.

Another child of George Rodgers (1733-1825) was identified indirectly by the will of his son, John Rodgers (1776-1864)—Elizabeth Rodgers. He leaves a legacy to Margaret Elkins’ two sons, William and John Rogers Elkins; but he then states “I give and bequeath Margaret Elkins, the child I have raised, \$500 money.” Margaret McKinley (1825-1851), daughter of John McKinley (1782-1853) and Elizabeth Rodgers (1784-1843), had married Willis Elkins (1816-1889) and died in 1851 with 3 young children. John Rodgers (1776-1864) raised one of Margaret McKinley Elkin’s children—most likely because she was a great niece of his.

Please note that John Rodgers (1776-1864), son of George and Margaret Rodgers, had married Margaret James (1783-1869) on 2 Feb 1805 in Cabarrus Co., NC. The 1850 Cabarrus Co., NC census—having been described previously as one of the rare censuses where the census taker recorded the birth county as well as the state of each individual—stated not only that John Rodgers was born in Cabarrus Co., NC in 1776, but also indicated that his wife Margaret James Rodgers was born in Burke Co., NC in 1783. She was probably born too late to have been a daughter of William and Margaret Rodgers James, but certainly could have been a daughter of

one of their sons. It seems highly likely that John Rodgers (1776-1864) had married a second cousin. Unfortunately, the parents of Margaret James Rodgers are unknown.

Migrations of the Children of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid

So far the focus has been on the migrations of the children of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore who had settled in western-southwestern Cabarrus County, NC or northeastern Mecklenburg County, NC. The one exception was Martha Rodgers, wife of James Barnett, who was amongst the first settlers of the Waxhaw settlement in Lancaster Co., SC. Now the migrations of the children of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid shall be discussed.

Hugh Rodgers	+	Margaret Kincaid
b. ca 1700		b.
d. 1758 West Hanover twp, Lancaster Co., PA		d.

Children:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1) Martha Rodgers | + | John Rodgers (s/o Joseph Rodgers) |
| b. ca 1722 | | b. ca 1720 |
| d. Sep 1785 Mecklenburg Co., NC | | d. Sep 1785 Mecklenburg Co., NC |
| *Zeno Campbell's grandparents | | |
| 2) John Rodgers | + | Anna |
| b. ca 1725 | | b. |
| d. Oct 1802 Mecklenburg Co., NC | | d. |
| 3) Frances Rodgers | + | Robert Walker |
| b. ca 1733 | | b. ca 1733 |
| d. Before 1791 | | d. ca 1806 Clark Co., KY |
| 4) Robert Rodgers | + | Frances Russell |
| b. ca 1735 | | b. 1744 |
| d. ca 1795 Buncombe Co., NC | | d. 3 Mar 1828 Cullowhee, Macon Co., NC |
| 5) Margery Rodgers | + | Edwin Irwin |
| b. 1740 Lancaster Co., PA | | b. 1736 |
| d. 29 Oct 1788 Mecklenburg Co., NC | | d. 10 Oct 1790 Mecklenburg Co., NC |
| 6) Sarah Rodgers | + | John Carothers |
| b. ca 1743 | | b. 1742 |
| d. ca 1804 | | d. 1822 Rowan Co., North Carolina |
| 7) Hugh Rodgers | + | Ann Barnett |

b. ca 1745

d. 22 Aug 1830 Madison Co., MS

b. ca 1747

d. 1830-1832 Madison Co., MS

Figure 17. The Family of Hugh Rodgers son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton

After the discovery of the Zeno Campbell letter in 2007 and it had been verified as being legitimate, finding most of the children of Joseph Rodgers was somewhat easy as most of them were residing in roughly the same place in Cabarrus County, NC. Two of the children of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid also migrated to that area of Cabarrus County.

Evidence suggests that when Hugh Rodgers (husband of Margaret Kincaid, son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton) died in 1758, that his remaining children that were still in Hanover township, Lancaster County, PA migrated as a group to Cabarrus Co., NC. Sarah Rodgers (1743-1804) is thought to be the youngest daughter of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid. She married John Carothers (1742-1822) about 1765 in Mecklenburg Co., NC—he went by the nickname “Hunting John” Carothers. This means that she must have moved to North Carolina with other family members while she was still a teenager. As fortune would have it, a descendant of John Carothers and Sarah Rodgers would have the family bible of their son, Hugh G. Carothers (b. 22 May 1771 Cabarrus Co., NC d. 16 Aug 1804 Cabarrus Co., NC). The bible states that Hugh G Carothers was the son of John Carothers and Sarah Rodgers—it was written in a different hand writing than the other entries, so it appears to have been entered later. According to the family tradition, Hugh G Carothers’ mother died about 1803 or 1804—the date, unfortunately, is not recorded in the bible. Afterwards, John Carothers sold his property to his son Hugh G. Carothers so that he could live with him and his wife, but then Hugh Carothers died only a few months later. Afterwards, John Carothers lived for various lengths of time with different children until 1809 when he purchased a small 50 acre farm in Rowan Co., NC near his eldest son, James Caruthers (Rowan Co., NC Deed Bk 20 p. 117). Had it not been for this information being preserved by descendants of Hugh G. Carothers then this family would likely have not been identified at all. No record in Mecklenburg or Cabarrus counties ever identified the name of John Carothers’ wife. John Carothers purchased his property on Muddy Creek in Cabarrus County in two transactions: 1) 35 acres from William Balch on 15 Feb 1779 (Mecklenburg NC Deed Bk 10 p. 372) and 2) 50 acres from David Oliphant on 5 Jun 1779 (Mecklenburg NC Deed Bk 7 p. 143). John Carothers then indeed sold his property to his son Hugh G Carothers on 25 Jan 1804 (Cabarrus Co., NC Deed Bk 5 pp 109-110). John Caruthers died there with a will in December 1822 (Rowan NC Deed Bk H p. 206-207). It is believed that Sarah Rodgers married John Carothers about 1765 in Mecklenburg Co., NC. The family of John Carothers and Sarah Rodgers are listed below:

John Carothers

+

Sarah Rodgers

b. 1742 Pennsylvania

b. ca 1743 Pennsylvania

m. ca 1765

d. December 1822 Rowan Co., NC

d. 1803-4 Cabarrus Co., NC

Children:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1) James Carothers
b. 1766 Cabarrus Co., NC
m. 17 May 1791 Rowan Co., NC
d. 1861 Rowan Co., NC | + | Elizabeth Lawrence
b. 1772

d. 1859 Rowan Co., NC |
| 2) John Carothers
b. ca 1768
d. ??? | | |
| 3) Margaret Carothers
b. 1770 Cabarrus Co., NC
m. 25 May 1795 Cabarrus Co., NC
d. 8 Oct 1832 Jefferson Co., IN | + | Joseph Holton
b. 1756 York Co., PA

d. 1805 Buncombe Co., NC |
| 4) Hugh G Carothers
b. 22 May 1771 Cabarrus Co., NC
d. 16 Aug 1804 Cabarrus Co., NC | + | Margaret Carothers
b. 22 May 1781 Cabarrus Co., NC
d. Jun 1828 |
| 5) Sarah Carothers
b. 1775 Cabarrus Co., NC
m. 5 Nov 1796 Cabarrus Co., NC
d. 29 May 1857 Illinois | + | James Morrison
b. 23 Aug 1765 Mecklenburg Co NC

d. 13 Jan 1842 Tennessee |

Figure 18. The Family of John Carothers and Sarah Rodgers daughter of Hugh Rodgers son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton

The second youngest daughter of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid was Margery Rodgers (1740-1788). She was 18 years old and unmarried when her father passed away in 1758. It is clear that she also migrated with other family members to North Carolina after the death of her father. About 1769, Margery Rodgers married Edward Erwin (1736-1790). Edward Erwin purchased his first land on Long Creek from John & Elizabeth Mitchell on 9 Dec 1769 (Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Bk 4 p 622). They lived near Huntersville in northern Mecklenburg Co., North Carolina and attended the Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Margery Rodgers Erwin died at only 48 years old and had young children. Edward Erwin left a will when he died in 1790—John Carothers and James Henry were appointed administrators of the estate. On July 24th, 1801, the executors of the last will of Edward Erwin requested that the tract of land of 320 acres be valued and divided equally between the two sons John & Robert. However, Robert Erwin died on 11 Aug 1803 and is buried next to his parents in the Hopewell Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Here is the family of Margery Rodgers and Edward Erwin:

Edward Erwin	+	Margery Rodgers
--------------	---	-----------------

b. 1736

d. 10 Oct 1790 Mecklenburg Co., NC

Children:

1) Margaret Erwin +
b. 21 Sep 1771 Mecklenburg Co., NC
m. 2 Sep 1791 Mecklenburg Co., NC
d. 15 Oct 1860 Perry Co., AL

2) John R Erwin +
b. 4 Sep 1773 Rowan Co., NC
m. 1800
d. 23 Dec 1859 Marshall Co., TN

3) Jane Erwin
b. ca 1777

4) Sarah Erwin
b. ca 1781

5) Robert Erwin
b. May 1786
d. 11 Aug 1803 Mecklenburg Co., NC

b. 1740

d. 29 Oct 1788 Mecklenburg Co, NC

Job Cannon
b. 5 Aug 1766

d. 10 May 1842 Mecklenburg Co NC

Hannah Bishop
b. 18 May 1777

d. 16 Oct 1851 Marshall Co., TN

Figure 19. The Family of Edwin Erwin and Margery Rodgers daughter of Hugh Rodgers son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton

Frances Rodgers, daughter of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid, had married Robert Walker in Pennsylvania and migrated to North Carolina after 1757. Robert Walker is last seen in Pennsylvania on the 1757 West End of Derry township tax list. In addition, the eldest son of Frances Rodgers and Robert Walker was James Walker (b. 1757 d. 1832 Washington Co., IN) who had married Edith Smith in Bourbon Co., KY on 15 Feb 1794—their youngest daughter Isabel Walker (1812-1900), w/o Isaac Gibson, had stated on the 1880 Burt Co., NE census (village of Tekemah p 3 ED 39) that her father was born in Pennsylvania. Since Robert Walker is not seen on the 1759 Derry township tax list, it is thought that he and his young family had migrated to North Carolina about 1758. However, once Robert and Frances Walker first arrived in North Carolina, they had settled in what is present-day Cabarrus County on Coddle Creek.

Robert Walker purchased 431 acres on Coddle Creek from Governor Arthur Dobbs on 25 Jun 1764—this initial deed was not recorded at the courthouse but was referenced when Robert Walker and his wife Frances sold this property to John Russell on 4 Mar 1767 (Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Bk 4 p. 93). Just a month later, there is a deed transaction from John Russell of Rowan Co., NC to Robert Walker on 22 Apr 1767 for 350 acres on “Bigg Creek of Little River” (Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Bk 7 pp 426-430). Considering both deed transactions involved

John Russell, it seems highly likely that it was the same Robert Walker. By the land description and water course, this land was in the Fairforest Creek settlement which straddled modern day Spartanburg and Union counties in South Carolina (as previously noted, there was a dispute as to the boundary between North and South Carolina that was not resolved until 1772). Indeed, a deed was found where Robert Walker had surveyed the property in Spartanburg County, SC and split it between his two sons, John and Robert Jr, in 1782. Robert Rodgers deeded the lower half of the property to his son Robert Jr on 29 Jun 1782 (Spartanburg Co., SC Deed Bk B p. 379). This specific deed identifies that both Robert Walker Sr and Robert Walker Jr were residents of Mecklenburg Co., North Carolina. There is no deed of gift to his son John Walker recorded in the deed books, but it is clear that he had obtained ownership of the upper half of the survey when he sold his property in 1784 (Spartanburg Co., SC Deed Bk A p. 29). Robert Walker Jr also sold his property in 1784 (Spartanburg Co., SC Deed Bk B p. 380-381). So it is known that Robert Walker and Frances Rodgers had had at least three sons—James, Robert and John.

Knowing that the Robert Walker who sold the property in Spartanburg Co., SC in 1782 was a resident of Mecklenburg Co., NC is significant. However, there were two Robert Walker's in Mecklenburg County throughout the 1770's and 1780's—Robert Walker Sr and Robert Walker Jr (son of James Walker who died in 1782). Robert Walker Sr presented the will of James Walker (d. 1782) to the Mecklenburg County Court in October 1782. It is believed that James Walker and Robert Walker Sr were brothers and both sons of James Walker (d. 1753) of Derry township, Old Lancaster Co., PA. A Robert Walker sold his property in Mecklenburg Co., NC in 1791 while a resident of Fayette Co., Kentucky to John Walker (Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Bk 19 p. 552). It is not clear if this represents John Walker (s/o Robert Walker Sr) or possibly the John Walker, son of James Walker who died in 1782. This deed identifies that the property was obtained from George Augustus Selwyn as part of Tract 3—no date included on the purchase. This is referring to one of the McCullah tracts that covered a sizable portion of present-day Mecklenburg Co., NC—including the city of Charlotte. The original deed of purchase was not recorded at the courthouse, but from review of abstracts of deed transactions in Mecklenburg Co., NC, it is clear that these sales largely took place between 1763 and 1767. This means that this deed clearly refers to Robert Walker Sr. The Robert Walker who was the son of James Walker (1725-1782) was born in 1754 and clearly would have been too young to have made this purchase. The court minute books for Mecklenburg Co., NC clearly show a differentiation between Robert Walker Sr and Robert Walker Jr (the son of James Walker d. 1782) from 1775 until 1784; after 1784 the use of Jr and Sr for the name Robert Walker is no longer used. It is felt that 1784 was probably the year that Robert Walker Sr and his family moved to Kentucky.

However, it should be noted that Frances Rodgers Walker was almost certainly deceased by 1791. She did not release her dower in the deed to the property that clearly would have been her home. She also did not release her dower for any of the deed transactions involving her sons John and Robert in Spartanburg Co., SC. It is possible that Frances Rodgers Walker had died by 1782, but it seems highly likely that she was deceased by 1791.

Robert Walker is first seen on the 1787 tax lists for Fayette Co., Kentucky (the first tax list available) and is seen on the tax lists through 1792. It should be noted that on the 1791 tax list that Robert Walker had 4 pols in his household. When Clark Co., Kentucky was formed from Fayette Co., Kentucky in 1793 Robert Walker is then seen in the new county next to his son Robert Walker Jr. In 1794, James Walker is seen next to his father. In 1796, Robert Walker Jr had obtained 100 acres of land on Somerset Creek. 1797 heralded the formation of Montgomery County from Clark County and this split the family between the two counties. Robert Walker Sr and his son James Walker were still in Clark Co., KY, but Robert Walker Jr was on the other side of the county line in Montgomery Co., KY. The last year that there were two Robert Walker's between the two counties was 1805. It is thought that Robert Walker Sr died about 1806—he did not own any property and there was no probate. Robert Walker Jr died in Montgomery Co., KY in Jul 1829 without a will. Only one of his heirs was listed in the estate record—his daughter Mary, wife of Richard Collins—because the other heirs were suing her in the Chancery Court. Unfortunately, the court records prior to 1840 for Montgomery County were lost in a courthouse fire, so the names of the other heirs are not known. James Walker sold his property in Clark Co., KY in 1828 and moved to Washington Co., IN where he died in 1832. The known family of Robert Walker and Frances Rodgers is listed below:

Robert Walker	+	Frances Rodgers
b. ca 1733		b. ca 1733
m. ca 1756		
d. ca 1806 Clark Co., Kentucky		d. prior to 1791

Children:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------|
| 1) James Walker | + | Edith Smith |
| b. 1757 Pennsylvania | | b. ca 1774 |
| m. 15 Feb 1794 Bourbon Co., KY | | |
| d. 1832 Washington Co., IN | | d. 1851 |
| 2) Robert Walker | + | Lucy |
| b. ca 1762 | | b. ??? |
| d. Jul 1829 Montgomery Co., KY | | d. ??? |
| 3) John Walker* | | |

*This John Walker *may* have been the John Walker who died at the age of 69 in Mecklenburg Co., NC in 1833 leaving a will. He had married Rosannah Black, daughter of Ezekiel Black, on 15 Feb 1791 in Mecklenburg Co., NC.

Figure 20. The Family of Robert Walker and Frances Rodgers daughter of Hugh Rodgers son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton

Although documentary evidence specifically identified Robert Walker Jr and John Walker as sons of Robert Walker and Frances Rodgers, this was not seen for James Walker (1757-1832). However, James Walker was clearly in the right place at the right time in Clark Co., KY and is seen next to Robert Walker Sr on the tax lists. In addition to this, a descendant of James Walker (1757-1832) participated in the Walker Y-DNA surname project at Family Tree DNA and has been identified as a member of the R-M269 haplogroup in group 5 which represents descendants of James Walker (d. 1753 Derry Twp, Dauphin Co., PA) who had relocated from Derry township of Old Lancaster Co., PA to Mecklenburg Co., NC. The closest match is to a descendant of James Walker (d. 1782 Mecklenburg Co., NC) who is a presumed brother to Robert Walker Sr with a genetic distance of 2. This largely proves that James Walker was almost certainly a son of Robert Walker and Frances Rodgers.

The above analysis suggests that Sarah and Margery Rodgers, the youngest daughters of Hugh Rodgers (d. 1758), likely accompanied their brother-in-law, Robert Walker (1733-1806), to North Carolina in 1758. This may have been part of a larger migration. James Walker (d. 1782)—the presumed brother of Robert Walker—also migrated to North Carolina about this time. In addition, Hugh Carothers had come from Derry township, Old Lancaster Co., PA to what is now Cabarrus Co., NC also about 1758. Hugh Carothers (d. 1782 Mecklenburg Co., NC) was the father of John Carothers (1742-1822) who had married Sarah Rodgers (1743-1804). John Russell, who had purchased the property of Robert Walker in 1766, also obtained state grant 276 on 22 Oct 1782 for 90 acres on Coddle Creek “adjacent Hugh Carothers and other lands of Russell” (Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Bk 12 p 84)—this meaning that Robert Walker had also been a neighbor of Hugh Carothers. Hugh Carothers was likely the brother-in-law of Robert Walker. When James Walker Sr (purported father of Robert Walker Sr and James Walker Jr) died in 1753 in Derry township, Old Lancaster Co., PA, he left a horse, bridle and 10 pounds to his grandson James Carothers, and also left a pistol to his daughter Sarah Carothers (Lancaster Co., PA Will Bk B pp 3-4). When Hugh Carothers died in Mecklenburg Co., NC in 1782, his wife’s name was indeed Sarah—she was probably Sarah Walker—and he did have a son named James.

With Robert Walkers’ original land purchase on Coddle Creek in what is now Cabarrus County, NC being adjacent to land of Hugh Carothers, this clearly made it very convenient for his sister-in-law Sarah Rodgers to have married John Carothers, son of Hugh Carothers. And indeed the land that Robert Walker had sold in 1791 was described as being adjacent to William Sample Alexander who lived on Sugar Creek in northeastern modern Mecklenburg Co., NC. The Erwin family that Margery Rodgers married into was centered around Steel Creek and Long Creek in north central Mecklenburg Co., NC. This likely made it possible for Margery Rodgers to meet her husband as well.

Now we shall discuss Hugh Rodgers Jr, who was the youngest child of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid, having been born about 1745. He had married his second cousin Ann Barnett, eldest daughter of James Barnett and Martha Rodgers, about 1773. It is presumed that he had traveled to North Carolina with his other siblings after the death of his father in 1758. Hugh Rodgers Jr never owned land in North Carolina. However, he did purchase 174 ½ acres of land

in Lancaster Co., SC from Richard Pearson on 1 Oct 1778 (Lancaster SC Deed Bk C p154-5). This was part of the original 599 acre tract granted to John Barnett, father of James Barnett; the 174 ½ acres was sold by James Barnett to Henry Pearson on 5 Jan 1775. Henry Pearson deeded the property to Richard Pearson on 1 May 1778 who then sold this land to Hugh Rodgers. The 1850 Carroll Co., MS census of his eldest daughter, Martha Rodgers Johnston, shows that she was born in 1774 in North Carolina. It does appear that Hugh Rodgers Jr and his wife Ann Barnett were likely in Mecklenburg Co., NC in the early to mid-1770's.

Hugh Rodgers Jr was part of a larger migration that led him across Tennessee, northern Alabama and finally Mississippi. In 1801, after James Barnett (1725-1816) sold the last of his property in South Carolina and moved with his second wife Margaret and his family to Caldwell Co., Kentucky, Hugh Rodgers decided not to accompany his father-in-law. Instead, he went with his brother-in-law, William Barnett (1760-1832), to Roane Co., Tennessee. It must be noted that William Barnett (1760-1832) had initially married his cousin Margaret Rodgers (1759-1784), daughter of John and Martha Rodgers (both died Sep 1785), but she died in childbirth with their daughter Martha in 1784. William Barnett then remarried about 1790 to Margaret Wear, daughter of George Wear and Mary Burns. George and Mary Burns Wear had migrated to the area in Knox Co., Tennessee in 1797 that would later become Roane Co., Tennessee. The 1797 migration included James Burns, brother of Laird Burns Jr (who was an immediate neighbor of James Barnett on Waxhaw Creek), and Alexander Johnston (1745-1816) who had married Margaret Barnett (1748-1836), daughter of Robert Barnett. In 1801, William Barnett accompanied his brother-in-law Hugh Wear (1765-1830) with wife Margaret Lyle, as well as his other brother-in-law Hugh Rodgers and Ann Barnett to Roane Co., Tennessee.

Things did not go well in Tennessee. George Wear got embroiled in a major lawsuit when the 1000 acre tract of land that he had claimed actually had been claimed by William Henry in Hawkins Co., Tennessee in 1792 prior to the formation of Knox County. When William Henry died in 1801, his son-in-law John Den found a number of squatters on the land and initiated a lawsuit to have them evicted. William Barnett acted as the lawyer for his father-in-law, George Wear, and initiated the countersuit *Patrick Campbell, William Barnett, and George Wear vs. the estate of William Henry, deceased* in the Hamilton District Superior Court in 1804, but they would only win back some minor compensation regarding the damages that they were supposed to pay in the initial suit. By 1805, the suit was lost and George Wear moved with his family to Christian Co., Kentucky; James Burns also went to Christian Co., KY. Alexander Johnston, William Barnett and his brother-in-law Hugh Rodgers Jr then moved on to White Co., Tennessee. But before the move, Martha Rodgers (eldest daughter of Hugh Rodgers and Ann Barnett) married William Johnston (nephew of Alexander Johnston) in Roane Co., TN on 7 Sep 1804.

William Barnett, Hugh Rodgers, and Alexander Johnston were amongst the earliest settlers in White Co., Tennessee. On 13 Jul 1807, both William Barnett and Hugh Rodgers were appointed election judges for the Collins River settlement in White Co., Tennessee (White Co., TN Court Minutes Bk 1, p. 23). The area that they lived would become Warren Co., TN in 1808. In fact, Hugh Rodgers and all of his sons and sons-in-law signed the petition to form Warren County

from White County in 1806—Hugh Rodgers Sr, John Rodgers, James B Rodgers, Robert Rodgers, Caleb Young, William Johnston, and Hugh Rodgers Jr all signed in succession in this petition. Caleb Young (1783-1847) had married Margaret Kincaid Rodgers (1782-1842), daughter of Hugh Rodgers and Ann Barnett, in White Co., TN on 10 Dec 1805. So the listing on the petition represents a single family grouping. By 1809, Hugh Rodgers and his brother-in-law William Barnett would finally go their separate ways. Alexander Johnston died in Warren Co., TN in 1817, but his children moved to Cooper Co., Missouri where the Wear family had eventually moved to. William Barnett moved on to what would eventually become Wayne Co., Tennessee in 1817 and became the county’s first clerk of court. Hugh Rodgers and Ann Barnett, however, would move into Madison County of Mississippi territory by 1809—what would eventually become Madison County, Alabama.

The very first record for Madison County, Mississippi Territory (now Alabama) was the January 1809 “squatter’s list.” This was the first territorial census. Hugh Rodgers is on this list. His household showed 4 males over the age of 21, two males under the age of 21, and two females over the age of 21. This was an informal census that was taken to determine who was living on the recently evacuated Chickasaw lands in northern present-day Alabama. No one could actually legally own land at this time, but those that were accounted on this list would be allowed to remain until August of 1809 when the land office for the sale of lands in Madison County would be opened in Nashville, Tennessee. Hugh Rodgers made a claim for 160 acres of land on Indian Creek.

By 1816, Hugh Rodgers had sold his land in Madison County and then moved south to Wayne County, Mississippi. Hugh Rodgers is seen on the 1816 Wayne County territorial census on page 7 with 3 males over 21 in his household, 1 male under 21, and 1 female over 21; James B Rodgers, his son, is listed on the next page with 1 male over 21, 2 males under 21, 1 female over 21, and 2 females under 21. When Alabama territory was separated from Mississippi territory in 1818, Hugh Rodgers and his family were on the Mississippi side and Caleb Young, his son-in-law, was on the Alabama side. By 1825, Hugh Rodgers and his family moved yet again to Yazoo County, Mississippi—the area of which would become Madison Co., Mississippi in 1828 (not to be confused with Madison Co., Alabama where Hugh Rodgers and his family were living from 1809 to 1816). Hugh Rodgers died there on 22 Aug 1830; his wife Ann Barnett Rodgers died in 1832. Here is a listing of their family:

Hugh Rodgers	+	Ann Barnett
b. ca 1745		b. 1747-1750
d. 22 Aug 1830		d. 1832

Children:

1) Martha Rodgers	+	William Johnston
b. 1774 Mecklenburg Co., NC		b. 1770-1775
m. 7 Sep 1804 Roane Co., Tennessee		

d. After 1861 Carroll Co., MS
Children: Hugh Johnston (1804-1861)

d. Sep 1834 Carroll Co., MS

2) Hugh Rodgers
b. 1774-1780
d. ???

3) John Rodgers
b. 1774-780
d. ???

4) Margaret Kincaid Rodgers + Caleb Young
b. 30 May 1782 Mecklenburg Co., NC b. 1 May 1783 North Carolina
m. 10 Dec 1805 White Co., Tennessee
d. 21 Jun 1842 Carroll Co., MS d. 20 Nov 1847 Polk Co., TX
Children: Hugh Rodgers Young (1806-1883), Martha Young (1809-before 1850), Nancy
Lynn Young (1811-1870), John K Young (b. 1815), William Terrell Young (b. 1816),
Joseph Rodgers Young (1819-1906)

5) James Barnett Rodgers + Mary
b. 1783 South Carolina b. 1790 Georgia
d. 2 Nov 1858 Drew Co., AR d. After 1860
Children: John Rodgers (ca 1806-After 1860), Susan Rodgers (1808-1849), Hugh S
Rodgers (1813-After 1880), Ann Rodgers (1815-After 1860), Mary Rodgers (1819-After
1860)

6) Chris Robert Rodgers + Elsie Frances Hale
b. 1785 South Carolina b. 1810 Tennessee
m. ca 1827 Yazoo Co., MS
d. 1840 Scott Co., Missouri d. ca 1856 Carroll Co., MS
Children: Young C Rodgers (b. 1828), Bruiks "Burks" Luin Rodgers (1833-1897),
Victoria E Rodgers (b. 1835), Martha C Rodgers (b. 1837), M Francis Rodgers (b. 1839)
[Note: Chris Robert Rodgers was married previous to Elsie Frances Hale to an unknown
woman and had a son named Barton Hannon Rodgers (1818-1870)]

7) Joseph Rodgers
b. 1790 South Carolina
d. After 1850

Figure 21. The Family of Hugh Rodgers (son of Hugh Rodgers son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton) and Ann Barnett Rodgers (daughter of Martha Rodgers daughter of Joseph Rodgers son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton).

During the early 2000's, this author was working with a group of researchers on the migrations of different Rodgers families from North and South Carolina into Tennessee and northern Alabama. There were several Hugh Rodgers in various counties and it was a very difficult task to sort them out. However, the breakthrough with this Hugh Rodgers occurred when the family bible of Caleb Young (1783-1847) and Margaret Kincaid Rodgers (1782-1842), daughter of Hugh Rodgers and Ann Barnett, was discovered. The bible identified the middle name of Margaret Rodgers as being Kincaid as well as giving her birth and death dates. In the colonial era up until the early 19th century it was common by tradition to name the eldest son after the father's father and the eldest daughter after the mother's mother. The eldest daughter of Hugh Rodgers and Ann Barnett was named Martha; they also had a son named James Barnett Rodgers. Considering the affiliation of Hugh Rodgers with James Barnett in York Co., South Carolina, it became a near certainty that Ann Barnett Rodgers was indeed the daughter of James Barnett and Martha Rodgers. And also considering that the eldest son of Hugh Rodgers and Ann Barnett was named Hugh Rodgers and they also had a daughter named Margaret Kincaid Rodgers, this seemed to solidify the likelihood that this Hugh Rodgers was the son of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid.

Attention will now be turned to the other children of Hugh Rodgers (d. 1758) and Margaret Kincaid who had migrated earlier. Robert Rodgers (b. ca 1735 d. ca 1800 Buncombe Co., NC), son of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid, had married Frances Russell about 1758. A strong family tradition about him has survived amongst his descendants to this day. He supposedly fought in the French and Indian War in North Carolina. However, his second eldest son Hugh Rodgers was supposed to have been born in Pennsylvania in 1761. Robert Rodgers purportedly helped to manufacture gunpowder during the Revolutionary War. He was a very early settler of Washington Co., Tennessee but then moved to Buncombe Co., NC in 1795 where he died a few years later. His wife, Frances Russell Rodgers, lived to be 84 years old and died in 1828 in Cullowhee, Jackson Co., North Carolina where she is buried in the Rogers Family Cemetery.

It needs to be stated that there is some controversy surrounding Robert Rodgers, son of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid. There is an excerpt on his family that was published in Notable Southern Families by Zella Armstrong (1918) which had stated that this Robert Rodgers was the son of Samuel Rodgers (d. 1782). This Samuel Rodgers has been stated in other publications to have been a descendant of John Rogers the martyr (1505-1555). However, in 2007 this information was proven unequivocally false during the Rodgers surname Y-DNA project when a descendant of Robert Rodgers participated. He did not match descendants of Samuel Rodgers, but he did match the G-M201 haplogroup with a genetic distance of 2 that represented the descendants of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thorton. Unfortunately, misinformation about the ancestry of Robert Rodgers has been published many times in various periodicals and Heritage County History books. Further evaluation of Robert Rodgers (1735-1800) nearly ensures that he was the son of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid.

The will of Seth Rodgers (d. 1758) had stated that Robert Rodgers, son of his brother Hugh, was "living in Carolina" at the writing of the will in 1757. However, the administration bond for the estate of Hugh Rodgers (d. 1758) dated 9 Jun 1759 was signed by Robert Rodgers. It is clear

that Robert Rodgers, son of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid, had returned to Pennsylvania. This may resolve what appeared to be conflicting information from family tradition. Robert Rodgers, husband of Frances Russell, had supposedly fought in the French and Indian War in North Carolina. But tradition also stated that Hugh Rodgers, son of Robert Rodgers and Frances Russell, was born in Pennsylvania. This actually fits with the available information.

In fact, it is thought that Robert Rodgers had accompanied his aunt Agnes Rodgers Hunter when she moved with her sons-in-law to Rowan Co., NC between 1754 and 1756. When Agnes Rodgers Hunter died in 1759 she had appointed her son-in-law Benjamin Starret the executor. When Benjamin Starret sold the land owned by Agnes Rodgers Hunter in 1763 it is clear that this property was part of the settlement at the forks of the Yadkin River in Rowan Co., North Carolina. At the beginning of the Cherokee War in North Carolina in 1758, one of the first settlements that was attacked was indeed at the Forks of the Yadkin River. A number of the early settlers were killed in this attack. This may very well have been how Robert Hunter, son of Agnes Rodgers Hunter, had died. If Robert Rodgers was in Rowan Co., NC with his aunt and uncle, then this may be where the family legend of him fighting in the French and Indian War in North Carolina originated. After the massacre, many of those early settlers returned to Virginia and Pennsylvania where they had originated. Here is an excerpt from Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, Vol 5 by William Saunders (1875) in the Preface p. 7:

In May, 1758, a petition was presented to the Legislature from the inhabitants of Rowan county, setting forth that the murders lately committed on the Dan River had occasioned the inhabitants of the forks of the Yadkin to leave their settlements, and praying the continuance of Captain Bayley (who was the successor of Captain Waddell) and his company, or some others in their room.

This may very well have been the reason that Robert Rodgers and his new wife had returned to Pennsylvania by 1759. Their eldest son, James Rodgers, was born in Rowan Co., NC, but their second son Hugh Rodgers was born in Pennsylvania.

Robert Rodgers and his wife Frances Russell returned to Rowan Co., North Carolina by 1764 where he is seen on the Rowan Co., NC tax list. Robert Rodgers then obtained 279 acres in 1765 via a lease/release from Thomas Lytle which was released to his ownership and subsequently sold to George Sevets Jr on April 7, 1774 (Rowan Co., NC Deed Bk 8, p. 186-187). He then purchased 116 acres of land in Mecklenburg Co., NC from John and Mary Maloney on August 20, 1774 (Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Bk 7, p. 139). Robert Rodgers then sold the property to Hugh Rodgers on June 30, 1779; his wife Frances Rodgers released her dower (Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Bk 7, p. 127-128). It was in 1779 that Robert Rodgers had gotten a land grant for 300 acres in Washington Co., North Carolina (now Tennessee):

(?) three hundred acres of land for Robert Rogers, on the waters of Cherokee Creek joining William Thornton and John Shelby including the improvements therein, given under my hand this (can't read) 1779. John Carter _____ (?)

Warrant #35 for the above land transaction was completed on October 24, 1782 (survey showed the actual number of acres was 280). Robert Rodgers later sold this land in 1794 to John Pitner. After moving to Buncombe Co., North Carolina, he died about 1800

What is most interesting is the sojourn of Robert Rodgers in Mecklenburg Co., North Carolina on Coddle Creek from 1774 to 1779. The land he had purchased was directly adjacent to land owned by John and Martha Rodgers (both died Sep 1785) who were amongst the earliest settlers of the Rocky River settlement. The Hugh Rodgers that Robert Rodgers sold his land to in 1779 was the son of John and Martha Rodgers (d. Sep 1785) and a great grandson of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. This is the very line of Rodgers that Robert Rodgers (1735-1800) has been shown by Y-DNA evidence to have matched. With the available evidence, it seems a near certainty that Robert Rodgers (1735-1800), husband of Frances Russell, was indeed the son of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid. This is the family of Robert Rodgers and Frances Russell:

Robert Rodgers	+	Frances Russell
b. ca 1735		b. 1744
m. 1758		
d. 1800 Buncombe Co., NC		d. 3 Mar 1828 Jackson Co., NC

Children:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1) James Rodgers | + | Rhoda Alexander |
| b. 1758 Rowan Co., NC | | b. 1758 Adams Co., PA |
| d. 1817 Knox Co., TN | | d. 1823 Knox Co., TN |
| 2) Hugh Rodgers | + | Nancy Thornton |
| b. 1761 Pennsylvania | | b. 1770 Sussex Co., VA |
| d. 29 Oct 1848 Haywood Co., NC | | d. 1845 Haywood Co., NC |
| 3) Jeremiah Rodgers | + | Sarah Springs |
| b. 1762 | | b. 1775 |
| d. 1831 Floyd Co., KY | | d. ??? |
| 4) Thomas Rodgers | + | Jane Young |
| b. 1764 | | b. 1765 |
| d. 1840 Macon Co., NC | | d. 1840 Macon Co., NC |
| 5) Robert Rodgers | + | Mary Jane Turner |
| b. 1768 Rowan Co., NC | | b. 1776 |
| d. 1819 Haywood Co., NC | | d. 1845 |
| 6) John Rodgers | + | Mary Jones |
| b. 1769 Rowan Co., NC | | b. 1774 |
| d. 1845 Buncombe Co., NC | | d. 1822 |
| 7) Frances Rodgers | + | Jesse Lavaskese |
| b. 1775 Mecklenburg Co., NC | | b. ??? |

d. 1863

d. After 1840

8) David Rodgers +
b. 1780 Washington Co., TN
d. 11 Jul 1854 Jackson Co., NC

Mary Berry
b. 5 Feb 1789 Wilkes Co., NC
d. 21 Apr 1852 Jackson Co., NC

Figure 22. Robert Rodgers son of Hugh Rodgers son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton

The last child of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid to be discussed is John Rodgers, their eldest son. John Rodgers was a bit of an enigma. He died in Mecklenburg Co., NC in Oct 1802 and is thought to have been born about 1725. There is no trace of him in records in Pennsylvania so it is thought that he migrated to North Carolina at an early date. But there is also no trace of him in North Carolina until he purchases his initial 300 acres of land in 1778. Also, his land is between 12-mile Creek and Waxhaw creek in southern Mecklenburg County, NC near the South Carolina line, quite a distance from his other relatives near the Rocky River settlement in present-day Cabarrus Co., NC. His land is somewhat near James Barnett and Martha Rodgers on Waxhaw Creek in York and Lancaster Counties in South Carolina, so it is possible that he had migrated with his cousins to that area prior to 1750. However, there are other families in the area, such as the Osborn's and the McWhorter's, which can be proven to have initially moved to the Rocky River settlement and then moved to Waxhaw Creek and 12-mile Creek by the late 1760's. The details of John Rodgers migrations have remained a mystery.

When he died he left a will in which he identified his wife's name as Anna, but he does not mention all of his children in the will—in fact, he leaves nothing to his children but only to specific grandchildren. A transcript of his will is listed below (Mecklenburg Co., NC Will Bk F pp 132-133):

In the name of God Amen, I John Rogers of Mecklenburg County and State of North Carolina, being at present weak in body but of a sound and disposing mind & memory, blessed be God and recalling to mind the mortality of the body and that it is appointed to all men once to die, do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament in the manner and form following.

First of all, I recommend my soul to God who gave it and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian-like and decent manner at the discretion of my executors herein after named, and as touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me in this life. I give and dispose of the same as follows:

First, I will that my just debts and funeral expenses be paid and discharged by my executors as soon as is convenient after my decease.

Imprimis, I give and bequeath unto my well-beloved wife Anna all my beds and furniture, household and kitchen furniture, all my plantation tools & farming utensils, my bay horse, all my stock of cattle & hogs, all my monies in the hand, and all the outstanding debts due to me to her use & to be at her disposal.

Item, I leave unto my grandson John, son to Hugh McRory, my saddle and bridle, and it is my will that the plantation I now live on containing one hundred and fifty acres together with fifty acres adjoining the same be sold by my Executors at public venue as soon as convenient after my decease and the monies arising from the sale of said land to be equally divided between ten of my grandchildren, viz Robert, Hugh, and James, sons to my son William, and Margaret and Elizabeth, daughters to my son William; also John & Hugh, sons to my daughter Jane, wife to Hugh McRory, and Anna, Hannah, and Mary, daughters to my said daughter Jane. I say the monies arising from the sale of the aforesaid lands to be equally divided between these, my ten grandchildren, share and share alike, the sons to receive their share when the turn twenty-one, and the daughters when they are eighteen years of age or on the day of their marriage. And I do hereby authorize my Executors or either of them to make a good and settlement title or deed of conveyance to the purchasers of said land as I myself would have done if personally present.

Lastly, I do hereby appoint my son William and my son-in-law Hugh McRory to be the Executors of this, my last Will and Testament, hereby making void all former wills by me heretofore made, Ratifying & confirming this to be my Last Will and Testament. In witness whereof I hereto set my seal this 10th day of December 1800.

John Rogers

From the will it can be ascertained that he had a son named William and also had a daughter named Jane who had married Hugh McCrory. Both of these children were adults with children of their own at the writing of the will. But John Rodgers stated that the sale of his property should be divided amongst “ten of my grandchildren.” This seemed to imply that there were other grandchildren not getting an inheritance. There were also other Rodgers in his immediate vicinity of his property on 12-mile creek and Waxhaw Creek. Were any or all of these individuals related to John Rodgers (d. 1802)?

John Rodgers had purchased his land in 1778 on 12-mile creek which is in southern Mecklenburg Co., NC near the South Carolina border:

Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Book 7, pp 179-180 23 Nov 1778, Michael Ligget of Meck., to John Rodgers of same, for £50 proc. money...300 acres on a branch of 12 Mile Creek... Michael Ligget Sr. (Seal) Witness: Francis Bassett, John McCorkel, Jurate

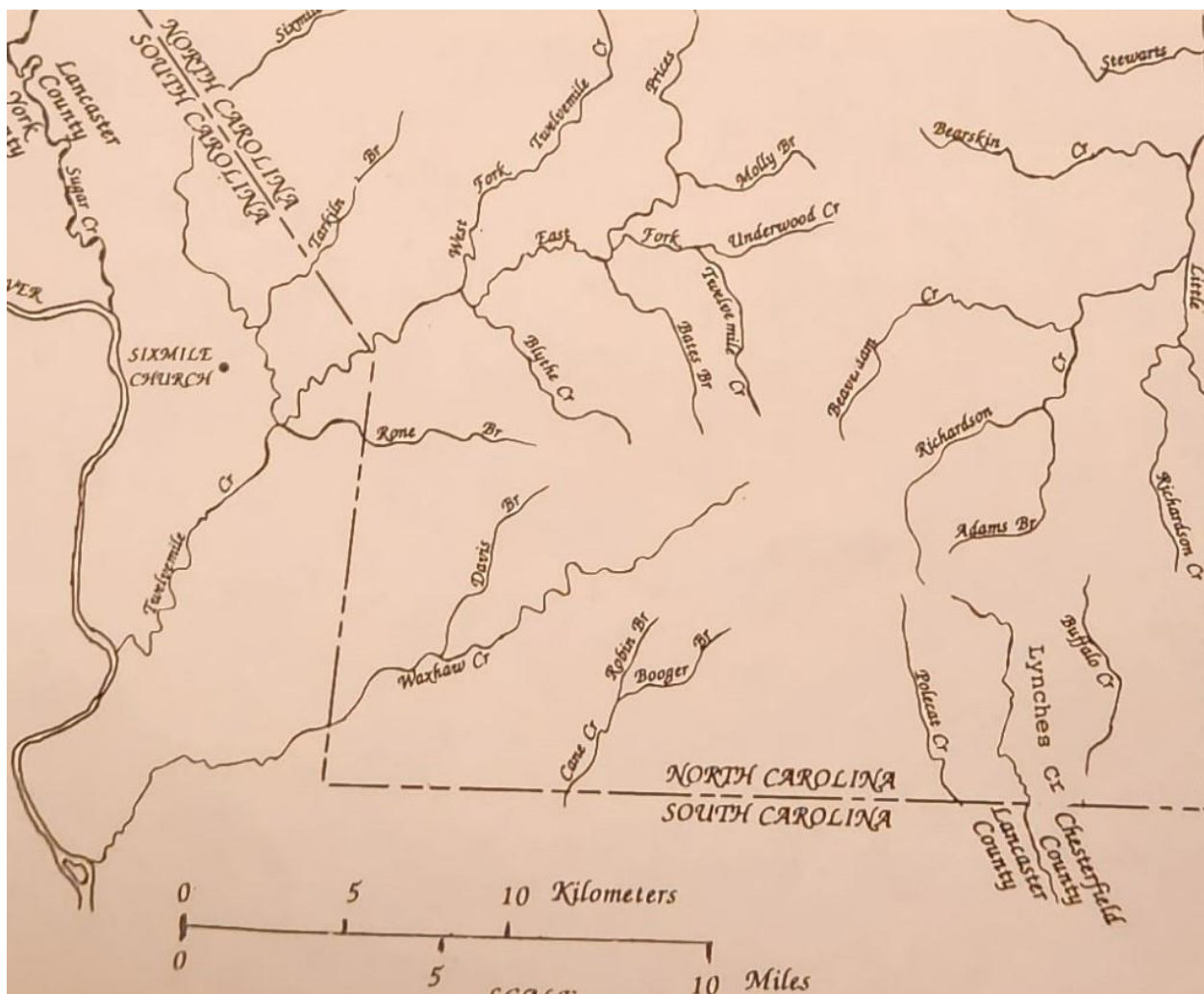
He had also obtained North Carolina State land grant #83 on Waxhaw creek which adjoined his other property.

Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Book 14, p. 312 24 Mar 1780 State Grant 83 issued at Kinston, vol. 42, p. 222, at 50 shillings per 100 acres, to John Rodgers by J. Glasgow, Sec, 50 acres on Waxhaw Creek adj Samuel Lesley, William Hamilton, and other lands of Rodgers. Witness: Rd. Caswell

But John Rodgers sold some of his land to his son-in-law Hugh McCrory in 1789:

Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Book 15, p. 226 20 Oct 1789. John (X) Rodgers to Hugh McRory for £20, 120 acres on a branch of 12-mile Creek being part of a 300-acre tract on which the grantor now lives. Witness: John McCorkle & William Osborn Proven at Oct Sessions 1796

John Rodgers' land was on the Rone Branch of 12-Mile Creek near where the Davis Branch of Waxhaw Creek almost merge. The 50 acres that John Rodgers had obtained as a land grant was on the Davis Branch of Waxhaw Creek. The border between York and Lancaster Counties in South Carolina is created by the Catawba River. The property of James and Martha Rodgers Barnett was on Waxhaw Creek right where it came off the Catawba River. John Rodgers was only a few miles away from his cousins.



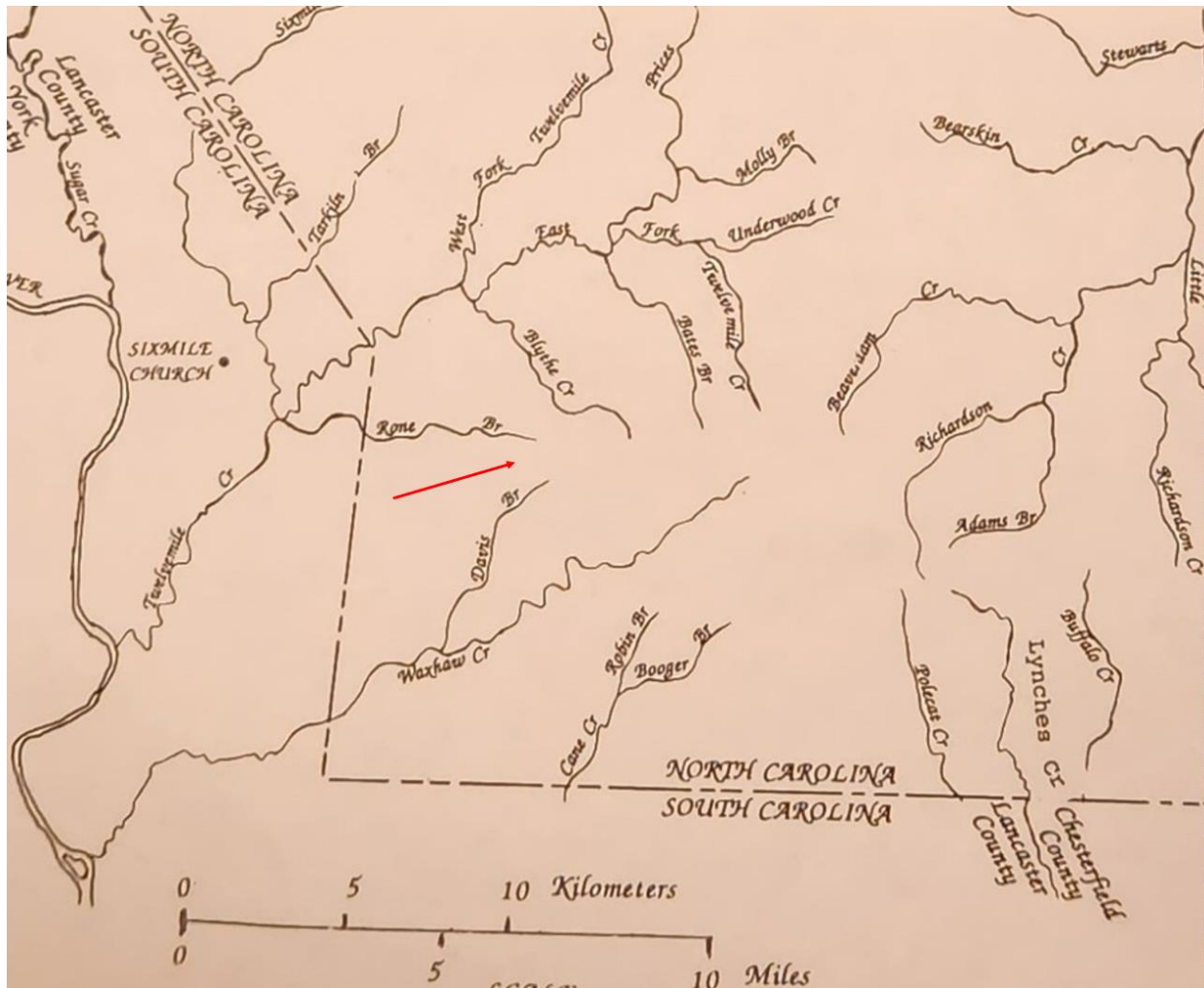


Figure 23. Map of the Southern portion of Mecklenburg Co., NC

Above is Fig. 23 a map of the southern portion of Mecklenburg Co., NC so one can see the exact area in which he lived (delineated by the red arrow).

Here is John Rodgers and his son-in-law Hugh McCrorey on the 1790 Mecklenburg Co., NC census:

<u>Page</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>M>16</u>	<u>M<16</u>	<u>Females</u>
380	11	McCrorey, Hugh	1	1	2
380	32	Rogers, John Sr.	1	0	2

There were a number of other Rodgers in this area on 12 Mile Creek and Waxhaw Creek that are seen on the 1790 census on the next page:

<u>Page</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>M>16</u>	<u>M<16</u>	<u>Females</u>
381	35	Rogers, Hugh	1	5	3
381	36	Rogers, Mathew	1	3	4
381	41	Rogers, William	2	4	3

There was also another John Rodgers in this area whose land was also on Waxhaw Creek:

<u>Page</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>M>16</u>	<u>M<16</u>	<u>Females</u>
385	7	Rogers, John	1	3	2

When first researching the Rodgers of 12-mile Creek and Waxhaw Creek, it was determined that William Rodgers, the son of John Rodgers, had obtained quite a great deal of land on Waxhaw Creek:

Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Book 13, p. 502 15 Oct 1783 Thomas Presley of Anson to William Rodgers, for £100 lawful NC money, 200 acres on the north fork of Waxhaw Creek, including Presly's improvements, adj John Davis and Beard. Witness: Joshua Yarborough, James Doster and John Rodgers

Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Book 13, p. 547 29 Nov 1781 James Gilmore and wife Margaret to William Rodgers, for £25 lawful NC money, 250 acres on the north side of Waxhaw Creek including Gilmore's improvements, and adj Robert Davies, McClellen, and other lands of Gilmore. Witness: Robert Davies, Daniel Carnes, and William Rodgers

The above 450 acres of land is very close to the land of John Rodgers (d. 1802), so he was felt very confidently to be the son of John Rodgers. But the Hugh Rodgers who was seen on the 1790 census had obtained land on Waxhaw Creek that was adjacent to Mr Beard, as was the land of William Rodgers:

Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Book 13, p. 32 16 Oct 1784. Thomas Curry of Wilkes Co., GA to Hugh Rodgers of Mecklenburg, for £71, 190 acres adj Beard. Witness: Wm. Mayer and John Foster. Proven in Dec 1786 Court

Hugh Rodgers had purchased the property adjacent to Mr Beard on Waxhaw Creek near the Davis Branch (North Fork) of Waxhaw Creek. And when Hugh Rodgers eventually sells his land in 1813, it is clear that he was sharing his land with another individual, John Rodgers:

Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Book 20, p. 42 20 Sep 1813 John Rodgers, Hugh (X) Rodgers, and Jennet (X) Rodgers to Daniel Britton for \$260, 142 acres in two surveys on Waxhaw Creek adjacent George McWhorter and other lands of the said Hugh. Witness: Elijah Sibley, Jurat and James Rodgers

In addition to this, there was a Robert Rodgers who entered his 200 acres of land adjacent the property of Jacob Orman on 28 Jul 1778 on Waxhaw Creek but apparently died that same year. His widow, Jane Rodgers, then obtained a formal grant of his land on 25 Jan 1779.

All of these Rodgers seen on the 1790 census and having land in the same area on Waxhaw Creek almost certainly seemed to represent the same family. However, reconstructing the family of John Rodgers (d. 1802) proved to be extremely difficult. Two different descendants of the Hugh Rodgers seen on the 1790 census on Waxhaw Creek submitted DNA for the Rodgers Y-DNA surname project in 2007 had tested positive for the G-M201 haplogroup with a genetic distance of two representing the descendants of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. The William Rodgers listed on the aforementioned 1790 census was almost certainly the son of John Rodgers (d. 1802). However, two different descendants of Matthew Rogers (d. 1795)—who is seen on the 1790 census in the midst of these other Rodgers, participated in the Rodgers DNA Project in 2007 who tested positive for the R-M198 haplogroup of Rodgers—NOT the G-M201 group that represented the descendants of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. This then seemed to represent two different distinct Rodgers lines that were living in close proximity to one another. Since John Rodgers (d. 1802) did not specifically identify all members of his family in his will, this created the huge problem of trying to figure who was related and who was not.

The solution to this problem was eventually found from one of the most unusual sources—the diary of John Osborn. John Osborn (1773-1861) was the son of William Osborn (1750-1840) and Martha Black (1753-1840)—he was born and raised on 12-Mile Creek and eventually purchased his own property on Waxhaw Creek. The diary was part of a 6-volume set, although only two of the volumes remain—one covering the period 1800 to 1802 and another covering 1818 to 1820. The other volumes were lost. Willie T Osborn of Monroe, North Carolina has the originals, but copies of the diary have been distributed to the Heritage Room of the Charlotte, NC Public Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and also Winthrop University at Rock Hill, SC. John Osborn ran a still and produced corn whiskey which he sold to his neighbors and was quite popular. He wrote in his diary almost every day, recording the weather, his travels, and his interactions with other people—this proved to be crucial in sorting out many of the relationships of different people on Waxhaw and 12-Mile Creek.

thurs Feb 13 1800

cool this morning for to single another run of Whiskey for myself. --- Last evening I got DAVID STARNs note for 30 bushels of corn to be paid in the Last week of October Next. I give him 10 gallons of Whiskey & V Late in the evening Raid I went up to HUGH RODGERS this morning his 2 sons WM. & JAS was got home from Charleston. Chilly cloudy very Early in the morning I went from HUGH RODGERS home to uncle & run 2 stillful of singlings which was the Last of the run that I began yeasterday by this time it was Late I fulled my still in order for to Double was all Night in the still house made 11-1/2 gallons

The above entry describes the Hugh Rodgers of Waxhaw Creek and identifies his two eldest sons, William (b. 1775) and James (b. 1778). John Osborn was close friends with William

Rodgers, son of Hugh Rodgers, and there are numerous entries regarding him. James Rodgers, son of Hugh, sometimes helped John Osborn with running his still:

tus July 29 1800 warm

I was runing of singleing till Night Than I Doubled a run for HUGH RODGERS made 13 gallons JAS RODGERS was all Night in the Stillhouse with me

The diary also identified the wife of his neighbor Hugh Rodgers:

thir Nov 20 1800 in the afternoon it came on SNOW the first we had this season

I was cutting still wood with some hands I had hired Late in the evening I went over to JAS WILSONS he was come home from Charlstown this day & brought me a still When I went there he was gone from home so I went to HUGH & JEAN RODGERS & staid all Night

John Osborn was related by marriage to the family of Hugh Rodgers. William Osborn, brother of John Osborn, had married Ann Rodgers, eldest daughter of Hugh Rodgers, in 1798. Alexander Osborn, brother of John Osborn, had married Mary McCrory, daughter of Hugh McCrory—the son-in-law of John Rodgers (d. 1802). However, John Osborn has a very specific reference in his diary regarding John Rodgers (d. 1802):

sat July 24 1802 warm rain

I went from AIKENS home to my fathers- Late in the evening I went with some company to JAS BECKETTS, HUGH McCRORYS & to old MR JOHN RODGERS in order for to sot up this night for to see the old man, a very old man, depart this life for he has been lying on a languishing bed this 4 days & nights with the people standing around the bed for to see his disalition- However we staid all night but he died not this night likewise

John Rodgers did not die until October of 1802, but he had apparently been sick the entire summer. John Osborn went with other relatives to stay up all night at old John Rodgers' home with the expectation that he was on the verge of death. Hugh McCrory was the father-in-law of John Osborn's brother Alexander. James Becket (1773-1852) had married John Osborn's sister, Elizabeth Osborn (1775-1861). The group had even left from John Aiken's house who was also a brother-in-law of John Osborn, having married his eldest sister Mary Osborn (b. 1770).

This is the one entry, in particular, that seems to tie the various Rodgers together. Everyone who went to John Rodgers to stay that night were related. Hugh McCrory was known to be a son-in-law of John Rodgers (d. 1802) from the will. Did John Osborn go to this event because John Rodgers was the grandfather of his brother Alexander's wife? Or did he have a deeper connection to John Rodgers (d. 1802), because he was also best friends with William Rodgers, son of Hugh Rodgers, and his other brother William Osborn had married Ann Rodgers, eldest daughter of Hugh Rodgers. One gets the impression that he was more deeply interconnected with "Old John Rodgers" since he was staying up all night when he was expected to die. Unfortunately, this volume of the diary ended on 2 Oct 1802—before the death of "Old John Rodgers." A diary entry describing the funeral would probably have been very informative.

There are also references in the diary to William Rodgers, son of “Old John Rodgers” (d. 1802):

tus September 23 1800 warm

Early I sot off from uncles with his Negro PET for to go for my corn that I got from Starns. We called at HUGH RODGERS from that to Where ELI WEITS now lives got 27 Bushels of DAVID STARNs we came on to WM. McCAINS from that home to uncles with my corn. In the even I Sot off from uncles again & went to WM RODGERS to a shooting Match from that Some Quantity of us went up to PETER RAPES there we took a stout Drop of Dram. From that I went on to my fathers & staid till morning & that was not long

Since William Rodgers, son of Hugh Rodgers, was still living with his parents in 1800, it was thought that the shooting match described above was actually at the William Rodgers, son of “Old John Rodgers,” whose property was adjacent to Hugh and Jean Rodgers. John Osborn also mentions Elizabeth “Betsey” Rodgers, daughter of William Rodgers, that he fancied:

tus March 10 1801 showary but warm

I masht a run of Whisky & Doubled one made 11 gallons. Than I sot off in order for to go to WM FISHERS for a barrel of ANDWR WALKERS I called in at WM RODGERS from that to FISHERS & Mr. FISHER Treated me hansomly than I came back as far as RODGERS again & Turnd in & Discourst Miss BETCY a while & it seemed for to please the people well- by this time it was in the night I went on home

Old John Rodgers, Hugh Rodgers, and William Rodgers (s/o Old John Rodgers) are mentioned a number of times in the diary. One definitely gets the impression that this seemed to represent different aspects of the same family.

However, it needs to be pointed out that there were other Rodgers mentioned in the diary.

wed May 7 1800 warm

I sot off from Dadys with some more company & went to the Waxhaw settlement to HUGH RODGERS to a Frolic it was a sewing frolic & there was a Number of people; I made but Little stay till I rode Down to my uncles from that my uncle & brother ALEXR sot off & went to WILLIAM McCAINS for to meet ROBERT SIBLEY according to Last evenings appointment we waited till past the hour appointed & Mr. SIBLEY did not come than Mr. McCAIN & us Returned to HUGH RODGERS to --- frolic & froliced till Late. Than I went with WM --- {McCAIN} his wife and Daughter home & staid all night Golly Moses

Since John Osborn specifically mentions that he “went to the Waxhaw settlement”, it is thought that the above entry refers to Hugh Rodgers, son of Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid. He lived on Waxhaw Creek in York Co., SC very near the Waxhaw Presbyterian Church and what is classically thought of as the “Waxhaw Settlement.” This Hugh Rodgers had a large party in which neighbors from all around came and celebrated late into the night. This is the only reference in the diary that seems to refer to this Hugh Rodgers.

Regarding Matthew Rodgers (d. 1795) who was in the midst of the other Rodgers, there is only one reference in the diary that seems to relate to this family:

mon July 14 1800 warm

I rode the Most of the day on Search of my mare but found her not I alighted at JOSEPH WALKUPS Mill & at the WIDOW RODGERS them home & Staid all Night

Matthew Rodgers had died in 1795 and the widow Rodgers is seen on the 1800 census near her neighbors on Waxhaw Creek. Clearly she was in close proximity to the other Rodgers, but the only reference in the diary was when John Osborn had lost his mare and he went up to Widow (Isabell) Rodgers looking for it. Since it was late and he was far from home he then spent the night. No connection with the other Rodgers was suggested by the diary. It seemed that he had a cordial relationship with the family of Matthew Rodgers (1752-1795), but rarely interacted with them.

The picture being painted by the diary of John Osborn was that there was a close relationship between Hugh Rodgers, William Rodgers, and Old John Rodgers. William Rodgers was identified as a son of Old John Rodgers in his will from 1802. But what, if any relationship, was there between Hugh Rodgers and the other two Rodgers? Considering that Hugh Rodgers had named his eldest son William and he was living directly next to the William Rodgers who has been identified as a son of John Rodgers (d. 1802), it seems highly likely that Hugh Rodgers was another son of John Rodgers (d. 1802).

There is one more record that seems to solidify the likelihood that Hugh Rodgers was the son of John Rodgers. In the Mecklenburg Co., NC Court Minutes Book 4 on page 53 July Session 1797, William Rodgers was sued by Margaret McCrory for bastardy:

Ordered by the Court that William Rogers, being Charged with unlawfully begetting a Child on the Body of Margaret McRory, enter into Bond and Security to Indemnify the County, who came into Court as Was bound with Hugh Rogers his Security in the Sum of 100 pounds, and also that he pay into the hands of the Clerk 25 shillings, the fine due from the Said Margaret having paid his own fine to William Matthews, Esquire. Ordered also that the Said William Rogers pay unto Magaret McRory the Sum of 35 pounds for the Maintenance of a base born child on her begotten by the Said William, and that the Clerk issue execution for 30 pounds in payment of Two Years and a half elapsed since the Birth of the Child.

Hugh Rodgers posted a bond for 100 pounds for William Rodgers in this bastardy suit. This now raises the question as to which William Rodgers this was. Typically, if a young man had gotten a young woman pregnant, then this would have typically resulted in a “shotgun wedding.” But the above record was a suit that resulted from a child having been born 2 ½ years prior in which William Rodgers had not been providing material support. One must consider that a wedding could not take place if William Rodgers were already married. In addition, Hugh McCrory did not have a daughter named Margaret, so it is thought that the Margaret McCrory in question was likely an unmarried sister of Hugh McCrory, which suggests that she was not likely a young woman. Also, the amount of money that William Rodgers was ordered to pay was exorbitant for the time frame—a total of 65 pounds. That would be equivalent to \$20,000 as of 2023. There is no way a young man who owned no property and lived with his parents could have been expected to come up with that amount of money. The William Rodgers who was the son of John

Rodgers (d. 1802) had accumulated over 450 acres of land by 1797 and certainly could have afforded to pay such a fine.

Although it cannot be stated with certainty, it seems likely that the William Rodgers who was the subject of the bastardy suit was the son of John Rodgers (d. 1802). He was married with a large family, so he could not simply abandon them to marry Margaret McCrory. William Rodgers likely denied fatherhood of the child to preserve his family for 2 ½ years, but the bastardy suit found him responsible and ordered him to pay support for the child. If this suit does represent the William Rodgers, son of John Rodgers (d. 1802), then it clearly identifies a close relationship between William Rodgers and Hugh Rodgers. Hugh Rodgers had posted 100 pounds bond for William Rodgers. Most likely only a close relative, like a brother, would be willing to post that kind of money.

There is one more individual who is very likely to be a son of John Rodgers (d. 1802)—John Rodgers Jr (1745-1815). Oddly, this individual is not mentioned in the John Osborn diary at all. This John Rodgers served as a captain in the Mecklenburg Co., NC militia and was living on Waxhaw Creek during the Revolutionary War. His widow, Rebecca Parks Rodgers (1757-1840), applied for a Revolutionary War pension based on her husband's service in 1838 (application claim W18825). The affidavits verifying his service were made by George McWhorter Jr, Andrew Walker, and Mary McCain (widow of John McCain). All of these individuals are mentioned in John Osborn's diary on numerous occasions. It is clear that this is the John Rodgers who co-owned property with Hugh Rodgers and they both sold the property to Daniel Britton in 1813. The reason that he is not mentioned in the diary is that by 1800 he was no longer living on Waxhaw creek and had established his own plantation on McAlpine Creek in Mecklenburg Co., NC. But the fact that he co-owned property with Hugh Rodgers very likely indicates that he was another son of John Rodgers (d. 1802). John Rodgers Jr died on 31 Oct 1815 and is buried in the Waxhaw Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

Lastly, it should be mentioned that the Robert Rodgers who died in 1778 with a widow Jane was probably a son of John Rodgers (d. 1802). Although less clear, this individual was most likely a young man who had died during the Revolutionary War. His widow Jane formalized the grant to his land claim on Waxhaw Creek on 25 Jan 1779. Robert Rodgers was a name commonly seen amongst the descendants of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. Considering that it is known that Matthew Rodgers (d. 1795) who lived in the area was not related to this Rodgers line, it is unclear if this Robert Rodgers was a son of John Rodgers (d. 1802) or not.

Hugh Rodgers, presumed son of John Rodgers (d. 1802) had entered a land claim on Waxhaw Creek 14 Jul 1778 for 100 acres and formalized the grant on 1 Mar 1780 (North Carolina Land Patent Book 42 p. 264). It is suspected that the reason that Hugh Rodgers and John Rodgers were not mentioned in the will is that they, along with Robert Rodgers, probably had obtained land grants to the original land claimed by old John Rodgers (d. 1802). As one may recall, John Rodgers (d. 1802) had purchased his homestead on 12-Mile creek from Michael Liggett in 1778. By having benefited from the land that was likely the original land claim of John Rodgers (d. 1802), this then excluded them from benefiting from the sale of the property of John Rodgers (d.

Joseph Rodgers of the Rocky River Settlement in Cabarrus Co., NC

The astute reader of this work will notice that Joseph Rodgers Jr, son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, has not been mentioned yet. That is because it is not clear if he has been uncovered or not. There certainly was a Joseph Rodgers who lived on Buffalo Creek and was clearly one of the earliest residents of the Rocky River settlement. This Joseph Rodgers was very prominent in the community. He lived to be 94 years old. When he died in 1829, he was buried next to his wife at the Bethpage United Methodist Church Cemetery. Here is his family listed below:

Joseph Rodgers	+	Isabella White
b. Feb 1735		b. Apr 1739
d. 24 Sep 1829 Cabarrus Co., NC		d. 3 Nov 1809 Cabarrus Co., NC

Children:

- 1) David Rodgers
b. 1759
d. 8 Dec 1842 Rowan Co., NC

- 2) Margaret Rodgers + David McKinley
b. 3 Dec 1761 Cabarrus Co., NC b. 1760
d. 17 Sep 1800 Cabarrus Co., NC d. 8 Dec 1842 Cabarrus Co., NC

- 3) Moses Rodgers + Margaret McKinley
b. 28 Dec 1763 Cabarrus Co., NC b. 1767
d. 28 Oct 1828 Cabarrus Co., NC d. After 1842

- 4) Eliza Martha Rodgers + Seth Rodgers
b. 18 Apr 1766 Cabarrus Co., NC b. 1757 Cabarrus Co., NC
m. Dec 1783 Mecklenburg Co., NC
d. 21 Dec 1834 Cabarrus Co., NC d. 21 Jan 1832 Cabarrus Co., NC

- 5) John Rodgers + Margaret Russell
b. 1767 Cabarrus Co., NC b. ca 1770
m. 12 May 1789 Mecklenburg Co., NC
d. After 1852 Bedford Co., TN d. Before 1820

- 6) Frances Rodgers + John McKinley
b. 8 Apr 1771 Cabarrus Co., NC b. 18 Oct 1763 York Co., PA
m. 22 Jul 1788 Mecklenburg Co., NC
d. 22 Aug 1851 Cabarrus Co., NC d. 10 Aug 1827 Cabarrus Co., NC

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7) Isabella White Rodgers
b. 17 Nov 1777 Cabarrus Co., NC
m. 11 Jan 1803 Cabarrus Co., NC
d. 25 Sep 1847 Bedford Co., TN | + | David Anderson
b. 29 Dec 1772 North Carolina

d. 22 Mar 1858 Bedford Co., TN |
| 8) Joseph White Rodgers
b. Jun 1778 Cabarrus Co., NC
m. 24 Feb 1804 Rowan Co., NC
d. 9 Sep 1843 Cabarrus Co., NC | + | Ann Graham
b. 1780

d. 1 Oct 1836 Rowan Co., NC |
| 9) William Orre Rodgers
b. Feb 1787 Cabarrus Co., NC
m. 16 Jan 1811 Cabarrus Co., NC
d. 29 Jul 1824 Rowan Co., NC | + | Sarah McClellan
b. 5 May 1794

d. 27 Jun 1873 Cabarrus Co., NC |

Figure 25. The Family of Joseph Rodgers and Isabella White

(The theory of this author is that Joseph is the son of Joseph Rodgers son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton)

In 2005, two researchers by the name of Ann Mills and Tina Rodgers Beller initiated the DNA project to determine the origins of the Rodgers families of Cabarrus and Mecklenburg counties in North Carolina. Descendants of Seth Rodgers (1757-1832) and Moses Rodgers (1763-1828) participated as the initial anchors for the project. And indeed, both were clearly related with a genetic distance of 2 and established the G-M201 haplogroup. This would seem to clearly identify that the Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829) who had married Isabella White (1739-1809) was the son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore. However, the very reason that the DNA project was initiated was because Ann Mills and Tina Rodgers Beller were trying to prove something very different—that all of the Rodgers of Cabarrus Co., NC were descendants of “John Rodgers the Ulster Scot.”

According to tradition, the earliest settler of the Rocky River settlement near Kannapolis, North Carolina in Cabarrus County was “John Rodgers the Ulster Scot.” He supposedly settled in this area as early as 1732 when it would have been part of New Hanover County. His cabin was on the north bank of the Rocky River a half mile below the mouth of Back Creek. According to legend, John Rodgers had no neighbors for the first one or two years when pioneers White and Harris showed up. Tradition also stated that Joseph Rodgers, son of John Rodgers, was the first white child born in the Rocky River settlement in 1735. This story was purportedly written down by the Rev. Joseph Bingham Mack (1807-1879) shortly after he retired in 1875 as minister to the Rocky River Presbyterian Church. It was presented to the congregation as a memento of the history of the church. However, this story was then ultimately published in a book entitled Historical Sketch of Rocky River Church From 1775 to 1875 by Morrison Caldwell (1913).

The problem with the above account is that there is absolutely no documentary evidence supporting it. It may very well be true, but there is no mention of John Rodgers in the New Hanover County records. Bladen County was formed from New Hanover in 1734 and its earliest

records were lost in a courthouse fire. Anson County was formed from Bladen in 1750 and there is no mention of John Rodgers in any of these records. Rowan County was formed from Anson County in 1753 (which was north of the Rocky River settlement by a few miles) and there is no mention of John Rodgers in any of these records. Mecklenburg County (the parent county of Cabarrus County) was formed from Anson County in 1763. The only reference that is thought to possibly refer to “John Rodgers the Ulster Scot” is this estate settlement:

Mecklenburg Co., NC Court Order Book 1, p. 366

October session 1782

Ordered that Letters of Administration on the Estate of John Rogers, deceased, issue to Joseph Rogers who offers for his Security Robert Campbell and they were bound in the sum of 60 pounds hard money. Administrator sworn.

The original loose paper files of the estate settlement have been lost. However, since the administrator was Joseph Rodgers, the eldest son of John Rodgers, it had been thought that this may represent the death of the earliest settler of the area.

The legend of “John Rodgers the Ulster Scot” had stated that he had become the progenitor of a large family on Buffalo Creek. However, the only known children are his son Joseph Rodgers who had married Isabella White (daughter of Moses White) and Martha Rodgers who had married Robert Moffett. The only reason that we know of Martha Rodgers is because Robert Moffett died between April and July of 1778 with a will (Mecklenburg Co., NC Will Bk B pp 59-60) where he names his brother-in-law Joseph Rodgers as the executor. There was a Thomas Rodgers who died in 1778 that may have been a son of “John Rodgers the Ulster Scott” as his land was adjacent John McKnitt Alexander and the Moffett family who were also very near Joseph Rodgers’ land. No other children have been definitively identified through the available records in Cabarrus or Mecklenburg counties. By the time of the Revolutionary War, there were a number of Rodgers families living on Buffalo and Coddle creeks in what is today Cabarrus Co., NC. The presumption of 20th century genealogists was that they were all descendants of “John Rodgers the Ulster Scot.” This was exactly what Ann Mills and Tina Rodgers Beller were trying to prove.

A game-changing event took place in 2007 when the northern Alabama research group for the Rodgers family (including myself) had uncovered the Sons of the American Revolution application for Zeno Campbell III (1865-1955) from 1932. In his application he had stated that he was a great great grandchild of William Balch, who although not a soldier had provided aid to the colonial troops in a number of ways. He also stated that his great great grandfather John Rodgers of Cabarrus Co., NC had also supported the effort of the patriots as well as losing a son named Joseph Rodgers who was a Revolutionary soldier that died in 1781. In fact, Zeno Campbell III said that he had a letter in his possession that was written by his grandfather, Zeno Campbell I (1787-1867), that detailed his Rodgers’ ancestry all the way back to the original immigrant, Robert Rodgers with wife Margaret Thornton, who arrived in Pennsylvania in the early part of the 18th century. Tracing the descendants forward from Zeno Campbell III, the letter was found to exist and was in the possession of Andrew Campbell Chinn of Virginia

Beach, Virginia. The letter was written in May 1865 by Zeno Campbell I to his daughter Darthula Omega Campbell because she had wanted her father to write down all of the information on the family history that he had known. Indeed, the letter provided a great deal of detail on his Balch, Campbell and Rodgers ancestors. The original Rodgers immigrants were Robert Rodgers and his wife Margaret Thornton. From the letter it was clear that most of the Rodgers living on Buffalo and Coddle Creeks were actually the sons of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore or Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid of Old Lancaster Co., PA who in turn were sons of Robert Rodgers, the original immigrant. So much of the Zeno Campbell letter has been independently proven to be correct, that it is now regarded largely as canon for this Rodgers ancestry.

The idea that John Rodgers the Ulster Scot was the progenitor of all the other Rodgers in Cabarrus County, NC has been disproven. The question at this point is whether he ever existed at all. There are no county histories for Cabarrus County, NC until the 20th century—the first was Cabarrus Reborn by James Lewis Moore and Thomas Herron Wingate (1940) which relays the same story about John Rodgers the Ulster Scot that is recounted in the Historical Sketch of Rocky River Presbyterian Church by Morrison Caldwell (1913). And no transcript has been found of the supposed manuscript of the early history of the Rocky River church as purportedly outlined by Rev. Joseph Bingham Mack (1807-1879) who would have known some of the grandchildren of Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829).

What is quite odd is that a transcript for an earlier history of the Rocky River Church has been found that was written by Robert Kirkpatrick in 1854 entitled, “History of the Rocky River Church From its Earliest Settlement to the Present Day.” There is absolutely no mention in this earlier work of the existence of John Rodgers the Ulster Scot. The earliest account of the church was when Alexander Craighead was established as the first minister of the church in 1758. In fact, the book actually states that the first settlement on Rocky River occurred about 1750. There was not even a Rodgers listed amongst the earliest elders of the church—the earliest list being from roughly 1755. It would seem very peculiar that this earlier account makes no mention of the very first settler of the Rocky River settlement who was supposedly a member of the church.

This author’s suspicion is that John Rodgers the Ulster Scot as the earliest settler of the Rocky River settlement may not have existed. The earliest church of the Rocky River settlement was clearly the Poplar Tent Church which was formed in 1751. My belief is that in the late 19th or early 20th century the myth of John Rodgers the Ulster Scot was fabricated when members of the Rocky River Presbyterian Church were trying to gain additional prestige—“the Rocky River Presbyterian Church may not have been the first church, but it had the earliest settler of the Rocky River settlement as a member of its congregation.” Joseph Rodgers had a clearly marked tombstone that showed a very early year of birth (1735)—so all of a sudden he became the first white person born in the Rocky River settlement. An early estate record had been found for a John Rodgers that died in 1782 that was administered by Joseph Rodgers, so that must have been the first settler of the Rocky River settlement. But there is no identifying information on who the John Rodgers was that died in 1782—he could have been a young man who died during the Revolutionary War. Another Joseph Rodgers (1755-1806) was living in Mecklenburg Co., NC

at that same time as the Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829) of this work that may have been the administrator of that estate. What about the will of Robert Moffett who died in 1778 that identified Joseph Rodgers as a brother-in-law? There is no mention of a Moffett who had married a daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, or Hugh Rodgers and Margaret Kincaid. Who is to say that Robert Moffett did not marry into the White family, and thus his wife was a sister to Isabella White, wife of Joseph Rodgers. The will of Moses White (d. 1767) has been lost so there is no way to state with certainty who all of his children were. In essence, there is no actual documentation to suggest that John Rodgers the Ulster Scot existed and there is no clearly defined evidence of his children other than the legend.

I personally believe that the Joseph Rodgers of the Rocky River settlement with wife Isabella White was almost certainly the son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore. After the death of his father, he may very well have accompanied his older brothers, John and Robert, when he was a young teenager. But it is equally possible that he came during a later migration. Considering the DNA match between descendants of Joseph Rodgers and Isabella White to the other known descendants of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton, this would seem to be the most logical conclusion. Zeno Campbell in his letter specifically stated that Joseph Rodgers Jr, son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, had come to Mecklenburg Co., NC. A daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Isabella White, Eliza Martha Rodgers, had married Seth Rodgers—this was Zeno Campbell's uncle. If there had been a fantastic story about his uncle's wife having been the granddaughter of the first settler of the Rocky River settlement then it would have made sense that Zeno Campbell would have recounted it. Zeno Campbell was clearly the family historian and it seems highly incredulous that he would have missed such a fact. There is no other candidate for Joseph Rodgers, son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, anywhere in the records of Anson or Mecklenburg counties.

The counter argument is that Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829) had obtained the first land purchase of any Rodgers from Arthur Dobbs in 1762 which is recorded in the Anson Co., NC deed records before Mecklenburg Co., NC was formed (Anson Co., NC Deed Bk 6 p. 313-314). This seemed to suggest that he had been there at an earlier date. However, being the first to pay does not necessarily mean that he was first there. Moses White, his father-in-law, was somewhat prominent in the area—his brother William White may have indeed been in the Rocky River area from its earliest settlement. Simply having the money to pay Governor Arthur Dobbs for the land was all that was required to obtain formal ownership of the land claim, and Moses White might very well have been able to provide the money needed to purchase the land.

To be fair, since I am trying to present as honest a case as possible for this family history then I will provide the evidence that there *might* have been a John Rodgers who could have been related to the family of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton in Pennsylvania. Amongst the Quarter Session and Court Records of Lancaster Co., PA, there is an account of a John Rodgers who was a horse thief that had also accosted John Powell, the undersheriff, in 1735 when he was arrested. Here is the account as seen in the record:

At A Court of General Quarter Sessions of the peace Held at Lancast the fourth Day of May In the Ninth Year of his Majestys Reign &c (1735) before John Wright Tobias Hendricks Andrew Galbreath Thomas Edwards Saml Jones Edward Smoute & Deric Updegraf Esqrs Justices of Our Lord the King the peace of Our Said Lord the King in the County Afsd to Keep as also divers felonys Trespasses & Other Misdemeanors in the said County Comitted to hear & Detirmine assigned

The Court Being Opened the Sherrif to wit Samuel Smith Esqr return the [ve]nire facias to him Directed with the panel thereunto Annexed And the following persons were Sworn & affirmd on the Grand Inquest

John Kyle , John Musgrove, John Griffith , Daniel Fiere, James Silver Affirmed

Jurors: James Robinson, James Galbreath, Samuel Robinson, John Smith, Joseph Higgenbothom, Thomas Wilkin, John Harris, John Wilkin, Morgan Morgan, James Long

Francis Hughs - - - - - in - £10 - to Appear & prosecute Jno Rogers for felony

John Powel - - - - - in - £10 - to Appear & prosecute John Rogers for Assault & Battery

Dmus Rex	}	Sur Indictment for assaulting & beating
v	}	John Powel Comes and Says that he Cannot Gainsay &c Therefore it is
John Rogers	}	Considered by the Court here that the sd. Defdt make fine to the Governour for the Support of Government twenty Shillings with the Costs of Prosecution and Stand Comitted Quo [Usq]

Dmus Rex		Sur Indictment for feloniously Stealing one Bay Gelding to the Vallue
v		of Six pounds the Goods of Francis Hughs Comes and Says that he is not Guilty
John Rogers		in manner and form as by the Said Indictmt is Supposed and of this he puts himself Upon his Country And Joseph Growden Esq who for our Sovereign Lord the King in this behalf prosecutes in like manner And now A Jury who being Called to wit
		Upon their Oath and Affirmation Respectively Do Say that the Said John Rogers is Guilty as by the Said Indictmt is Supposed Therefore it is the Judgment of the Court that the sd. Defendt make Restitution of the Goods to the Owner and also make fine to the Governour Six pounds and pay the Costs of prosecution & Moreover Receive on his bare back twenty one Lashes & Stand Comited Quo [Usq]

When Lancaster Co., PA was formed in 1729, it encompassed a huge area—the present day counties of Berks, Dauphin, York, Cumberland, and Franklin would all be ultimately formed from land that was under the conrol of Lancaster County. As a result, it was impossible for a

single sheriff to cover the entire county. “Undersheriff’s” were appointed to different districts within the county. John Powell had been appointed the undersheriff for the northern district in 1734. Based on his will from 1748, it is known that John Powell had lived in Paxtang township of present-day Dauphin County. Paxtang township was adjacent to Hanover township where the Rodgers ancestors of this work were living in the 1730’s. Aside from that, it can be shown that a number of jurors for this case were living in present-day Dauphin County and northwestern Lancaster County:

Jurors in West Hanover Twp: James Galbreath, Samuel Robinson, James Robinson

Jurors in West Derry Twp: James Long

Jurors in Paxtang Twp: John Smith, John Harris

Jurors in Donegal Twp: John Wilkin

Jurors in Conestoga Twp: Morgan Morgan, Joseph Higgenbotham

What is quite curious is that the James Galbraith listed as a juror of West Hanover township was an immediate neighbor of the family of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. Looking at the plat map for East Hanover township from page of this work Fig 5, the land of James Galbraith was immediately west of the land of Col. John Rodgers (the original land claim of George Rodgers that had passed to Samuel Starrat and eventually patented to Col. John Rodgers). This does provide substantial evidence that the John Rodgers of this case could have been from this particular area.

Being convicted as a horse thief and then being subjected to a public lashing would have undoubtedly made this John Rodgers a pariah in Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania. After his punishment, there is no further record of this John Rodgers anywhere in Lancaster County records. One could speculate that this provided a reason for him to leave the area and seek residence somewhere that the long arms of the law could not reach. Undoubtedly, the Piedmont of North Carolina would have met that criteria in 1735. And, of course, there is this statement from Robert Ramsey in his book Carolina Cradle on page 28 discussing the earliest settlers of the Rocky River settlement:

“Memoranda preserved by the Clark family, which settled along the upper Cape Fear River before 1740, clearly indicated that a family or company of emigrants moved west across the Yadkin as early as 1746 to join ‘some families that were living sequestered in that fertile region.’”

It is indeed possible that John Rodgers had migrated to North Carolina at a very early date and somehow managed to maintain contact with his relatives in Pennsylvania. Then about 1747 John Rodgers and his brother Robert, sons of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, then joined their relative in the Rocky River settlement.

That having been said, there is no proof that the John Rodgers in the 1735 case was connected to the family of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. Extensive efforts were undertaken to obtain further information regarding this court case—looking for a bail bond, affidavits or

witness statements. However, no loose paper files for court records exist in Lancaster Co., PA prior to 1742. Furthermore, his disappearance from Lancaster County does not in any way

indicate that he went to North Carolina. Nothing further is known about this John Rodgers.

At this point, this author believes that the bulk of the evidence strongly suggests that Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829) with wife Isabella White was in fact the son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore. The lack of any actual evidence of John Rodgers the Ulster Scot in the Rocky River settlement makes it difficult to believe the legend. Although recounted in Historical Sketch of Rocky River Church From 1775 to 1875 by Morrison Caldwell (1913), the fact that John Rodgers the Ulster Scot is not mentioned at all in “History of the Rocky River Church From its Earliest Settlement to the Present Day” that was written by Robert Kirkpatrick in 1854 seems quite damning to this author. The coup de gras, in my opinion, is the fact that there is no mention by Zeno Campbell of John Rodgers the Ulster Scot when he would have been connected to Zeno Campbell’s uncle by marriage.

There are researchers who still firmly believe in the story of John Rodgers the Ulster Scot. “Absence of evidence is not proof of absence,” is a phrase that I have heard on a number of occasions. But if genealogy is to proceed in a scientific manner, then one must follow the evidence as it is presented. The court case in Lancaster Co., PA does provide a glimmer of hope to the believers in John Rodgers the Ulster Scot. Perhaps evidence will be uncovered at a later date that can settle this issue once and for all.

Thomas Rodgers of Mecklenburg Co., NC

One more individual needs to be discussed that is likely connected to the children and grandchildren of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton—Thomas Rodgers. On the Hanover township tax lists of Old Lancaster Co., PA there is a Thomas Rodgers listed next to Hugh Rodgers in 1757. Zeno Campbell never mentioned a Thomas Rodgers that was related to the descendants of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. This individual has been viewed as somewhat of a curiosity.

However, this author had decided to look at the original tax lists rather than just the transcriptions and this turned out to be greatly important. Look first at a copy of the 1756 tax list of the West of Hanover twp, Old Lancaster Co., PA:

Widow Rodger	10
Seth Rodger	23
Saml Ward	20
Hugh Rogers	16
Wm Rogers	16
Joseph Wm. Great	20
Saml Ward	20

Figure 26. 1756 Tax list of West of Hanover twp, Old Lancaster Co., PA

Please note that this shows Widow Rodgers (presumed to be Martha Poore Rodgers, wife of Joseph Rodgers), Seth Rodgers, Hugh Rodgers and William Rodgers. The William Rodgers shown above is thought to be the son of Joseph Rodgers who was mentioned not only by the Zeno Campbell letter, but also by Seth Rodgers (d. 1758) in his will written in 1757 as the son of

his brother Joseph Rodgers. The William Rodgers who died in 1759 and was probably a son of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton is listed further down the list.

Now something needs to be explained about the tax lists. In Lancaster Co., PA there were two tax lists for each year during the colonial era. There was the list on a loose piece of paper that the tax collector actually took with him (usually generated from the previous year). On this list, he would squeeze in new people that he encountered and would also cross out people that had died or moved away. Then there was the finalized tax list that was written down in the tax book. This list was typically clean with all cross outs eliminated and errors corrected. Below is a picture of the tax collector's list for 1757:

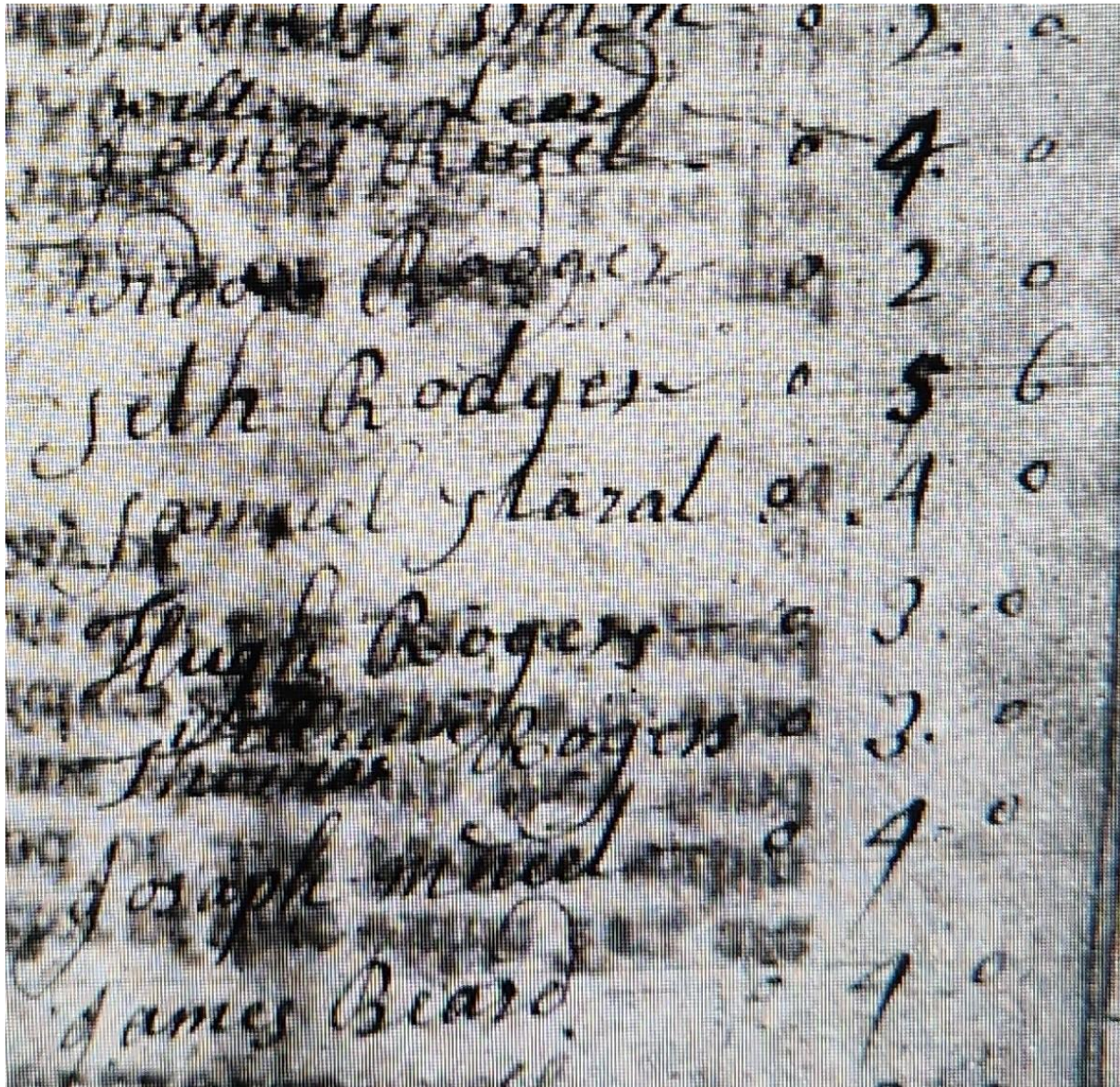


Figure 27. 1757 Tax collectors list for West of Hanover twp, Old Lancaster Co., PA

If you look at the above list, you see a correction where the name of James Russell was crossed out. Then you see William Rodgers next to Hugh Rodgers just like on the 1756 list. But then you see the name “Thomas” squeezed in underneath William. But there is no additional tax listed for Thomas—is this a name change? The other William who later died in 1759 is still seen further down the list. Now look at the finalized 1757 tax record that is recorded in the book:

6	Widow Rodger	2	0
0	seth Rodger	4	6
6	Jamuel Stard	4	0
6	Hugh Rogers	3	0
0	Thomas Rogers	3	0
0	Joseph M. Reed	4	0
2	James Beard	4	0
2		0	0

Figure 28. 1757 finalized tax list for West of Hanover twp, Old Lancaster Co., PA

On the finalized record for the 1757 tax book we see the name of William being removed and has been replaced by Thomas. In review, the 1756 list showed the name of William Rodgers next to Hugh Rogers. The tax collector’s list for 1757 that was generated from the previous year showed William Rogers, but then squeezed in the name Thomas underneath William. And the finalized tax record in the book has removed the name of William altogether and has Thomas Rodgers listed next to Hugh Rodgers.

This seems to suggest that William and Thomas might actually be the same individual. I believe that the William Rodgers, son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, had the middle name of Thomas. I suspect that at some point he preferred to be called by his middle name and had the tax record corrected to reflect that. William Thomas Rodgers was definitely already married by the 1756 tax list as he is not listed amongst the freeman. Assuming that Thomas is in fact William Rodgers, then he was likely the son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore who was an

adult living with his mother, the “Widow Rodgers,” which resulted in her having to pay the increased tax on the 1751 tax list as discussed on pages 13 and 14 of this work.

Nowhere in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus or surrounding counties in North Carolina has a good candidate for William Rodgers, son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, been found. But if Thomas Rodgers is actually William Thomas Rodgers, son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, then he has indeed been found in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. He was probably born about 1730 and he had died in 1778 intestate. Below is his estate record:

Mecklenburg Co., NC Court Minutes Book 1, p. 173

16 Jul 1778 Settlement of Estate of Thomas Rogers, deceased, by which appears to be a balance of £116-Cury-in the hands of the Executor.

The loose paper files have been lost, but there is one other reference in the court minutes regarding his estate:

Mecklenburg Co., NC Court Minutes Book 1, p. 400

April Session 1783 On the Widow relinquishing her Right of Administration on the Estate of Thomas Rodgers, deceased, her late husband, Administration of the said Estate is granted to John McKnitt Alexander who entered into Bond with John Duckworth in the Sum of £50 Specie.

There is no mention what the name of Thomas Rodgers’ widow was, but it is clear that she was living in 1783. However, it is interesting that John McKnitt Alexander was appointed the administrator because this individual was quite famous as a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. He lived in the Rocky River settlement very near the Buffalo Creek Rodgers. Here is a deed regarding John McKnitt Alexander:

Mecklenburg Co., NC Book 13, p. 156 1 Oct 1787 John McKnitt Alexander and Mary Flin, widow and relict of Nicholas Flin in his will of 20 Aug 1785 left three fourths of all his lands to wife Mary, and whereas John McKnitt Alexander is the only acting executor of said will the following actions were taken: 75 acres of the Flin lands were exchanged for the John Lockhart place of 128 acres who the same day deeded the same to John McKnitt Alexander in trust for the sole benefit of Mary Flin and her children, and the difference in value between the two properties has been placed at £25 specie which sum Mary Flin has paid to Lockhart. Subsequently, Lockhart agreed to sell the 75 acres acquired from Mary Flin and John McKnitt Alexander to William Bean Alexander for £25. Said 75 acres lies on Mallard Creek and consists of two parcels viz: (1) 35 acres being part of the lands once owned by John Cook, deceased, who deeded it to Nichols Flin 18 Jan 1779, and (2) 40 acres adj to Thomas Rodgers being the land granted by Gov. Rd. Caswell to Nicholas Flin 24 Mar 1780.

Witness: David Allison and Joseph Rodgers

Proven in October 1787 Court by oath of David Allison

The above deed shows that John McKnitt Alexander, the executor of Thomas Rodgers' estate, lived directly next to him on Mallard Creek. And look who else had signed this deed as a witness—Joseph Rodgers! If my research has been correct and the Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829) who married Isabella White was the son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, then that would make him the brother of William Thomas Rodgers who died in 1778 in Mecklenburg Co., NC.

Zeno Campbell never mentioned a Thomas Rodgers as being related to his Rodgers ancestors. But Thomas Rodgers was clearly associated with the Rodgers family in the Rocky River settlement. Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829) had entered a land claim on 26 Jan 1778 for 100 acres on 3 Mile creek in Mecklenburg Co., NC which was witnessed by both Hugh Rodgers as well as Thomas Rodgers—this record is in the loose paper file of Joseph Rodgers' application that was entered into North Carolina Land Grant Book 38 on page 29 after being finalized in 1783. This author believes that Thomas Rodgers was in fact William Thomas Rodgers (1730-1778), son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore, as well as being the older brother of Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829).

The estate record of Thomas Rodgers does not specifically name any children, but evidence suggests that he had at least three children: Thomas (b. 1754), Joseph (b. 1756) and David (b. 1763). Look at the deed listed below:

Mecklenburg Co., NC Book 14, p. 359 David Rodgers to William Wilson, for £210 current NC money, two tract viz: (1) 187 acres on Mallard Cr adj David Russel, Wm. Goforth, the wagon road from John McKnitt Alexander to the crossroads, and other lands of Wilson. Said 187 acres is part of 200 acres patented to John Buchanan, then conveyed to Wm. Hays who deeded it 13 Jan 1779 to Thomas Rodgers, next to Joseph Rodgers, and lastly to David Rodgers. (2) 50 acres adj McCleary and (1); said land is part of a patent to Jno. Buchanan, then conveyed to Alex. Wallis, Wm. Hays, Thomas Rodgers, Joseph Rodgers, and lastly to David Rodgers. Witness: Andrew McKee and Andrew Alexander Proven in Apr 1793 Court

The above deed shows that this land was clearly adjacent the property of John McKnitt Alexander—the executor of the estate of Thomas Alexander Sr. It was all purchased after the death of Thomas Alexander Sr in 1779, but then sold in serial fashion first by Thomas Rodgers to Joseph Rodgers, then by Joseph Rodgers to David Rodgers, and finally by David Rodgers to William Wilson. Although I do not have the loose paper files from the estate of Thomas Rodgers Sr to confirm this, I believe that this was part of the estate process to ensure that all his children obtained their inheritance. And by deeding this property to each of the children who then sold it, the taxes were substantially less than if they had just been given cash.

The question then becomes, what happened to the children of Thomas Rodgers (d. 1778) after the property was sold? Thomas Rodgers Jr appears to have remained in the area as of the 1790 census:

<u>Page</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>M>16</u>	<u>M<16</u>	<u>Females</u>
365	13	Joseph Rogers	1	3	4

365	14	Moses Rogers	1	1	3
365	15	Thomas Rogers	1	2	1
365	17	Seth Rogers	1	3	1
365	19	David Russell	1	2	1
365	20	John Rogers	1	1	1

On page 365 we see Thomas Rodgers Jr next to his cousin Moses Rodgers and his uncle Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829). Seth Rodgers was also a cousin, but he was also the son-in-law of Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829). John Rodgers was the son of Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829) and he is also next to his father-in-law David Russell. Clearly, Thomas Rodgers Jr seemed to be tightly connected to the family of Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829) and Isabella White.

Indeed, Thomas Rodgers Jr is seen on the 1800 Cabarrus Co., NC census on page 702. His uncle Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829) is seen on page 701. Here is the record:

1800 Cabarrus Co., NC Census

p. 702 Thomas Rogers 2 males <10, 2 males 10-16, 1 male 26-45 // 1 female <10, 1 female 26-45

Based on the above census record, Thomas Rodgers Jr must have married in the early 1780's and then had a total of 4 sons and one daughter.

Joseph Rodgers, son of Thomas Rodgers (d. 1778), sold the property that he had obtained from his brother Thomas Rodgers Jr to his younger brother David in 1788:

**Mecklenburg Co., NC Book 13, p. 452 8 Apr 1788 Joseph Rodgers and wf Margaret to David Rodgers, for £100 current NC money, 200 acres on Wallace Br of Mallard Cr adj McCleary and Wallace. Said tract was patented to John Buchanan, then conveyed to William Hays, by Hayes to Thomas Rodgers, and by him to the grantor.
Witness: Alexander Wallace and Alexander Fassey
Proven in Apr 1788 Court**

The above record then identifies that the name of the wife of Joseph Rodgers (s/o Thomas Rodgers d. 1778) was Margaret. This is important because it identifies this particular Joseph Rodgers. A Joseph Rodgers died in Mecklenburg Co., NC in 1806 that is thought to be this Joseph Rodgers (Mecklenburg Co., NC Will Book F p. 72-73). The name of the widow of this Joseph Rodgers is in fact Margaret. His will identifies the following children: Asneath Rodgers, Martha Orr Rodgers, Mary Russell Rodgers, Abigail Rodgers, Margaret Rodgers, Nancy Rodgers, Betsey Rodgers, John Rodgers, and Joseph Rodgers Jr. The will identifies that both sons and several of the daughters were still minors at the writing of the will. On the 1800 Mecklenburg Co., NC census this individual is on page 533—here is the listing:

1800 Mecklenburg Co., NC Census

p. 533 Joseph Rogers 1 male <10, 1 male 10-16, 1 male 26-45
4 females <10, 3 females 10-16, 1 female 16-26, 1 female 26-45

From the will we know that there were seven daughters and two sons—the above census record is consistent with this but suggests one of the females in the household was either not a daughter or that one of the daughters had died by 1806. David Rodgers is seen on the Mecklenburg Co., NC census on page 536—here is his listing:

1800 Mecklenburg Co., NC Census

p. 536 David Rodgers 3 males <10, 1 male 26-45 // 1 female <10, 1 female 26-45, 1 female >45

The name similarities and proximity strongly suggest that these are the same two individuals that were on Mallard Creek in Cabarrus County, NC and had moved into Mecklenburg County proper. Although David Rodgers and Joseph Rodgers are listed 3 pages apart on the 1800 census, they are listed sequentially on the 1798 tax list for Captain Michael McCleary's Company in Mecklenburg County. Since David Rodgers was involved in the various land transactions last, this would suggest that he was the youngest son of Thomas Rodgers Sr. (d. 1778 Mecklenburg Co., NC). He has the youngest family of the three presumed brothers. Yet there is a female in the greater than 45 age category. My suspicion is that the widow of Thomas Rodgers Sr. was still living in 1800 and was residing with her youngest son.

It is clear from the estate records of the Joseph Rodgers who died in 1806 that his plantation consisted of a total of 214 acres. The land was to be divided between Joseph Rodgers' two sons (John and Joseph Jr.) when they came of age. Unfortunately, the estate records do not identify where the 214 acres of land were located in Mecklenburg County. Having reviewed the deed abstracts up to 1830, there is no transaction that can be clearly identified as this property. It appears that the land was sold as a sheriff's sale as part of the settlement when the sons came of age. The estate records were closed out in 1812. Joseph Rodgers is buried at the Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery in western Mecklenburg Co., NC—he died 6 Jul 1806 at the age of 50.

After the 1800 census, there is no evidence of Thomas Rodgers Jr in Cabarrus Co., NC. Evidence suggests that Thomas Rodgers Jr accompanied his two brothers to Mecklenburg Co., NC after 1800.

1807 Mecklenburg Co., NC tax list Capt McCleary's Company

Widow Rodgers Jr	214 acres of land	No pol
Thomas Rodgers		1 white pol
Widow Rogers Sr	50 acres of land	No pol

The Widow Rodgers Jr is definitely Margaret Rodgers, the widow of Joseph Rodgers (d. 1806) because in his will he leaves 214 acres of land exactly to his two sons John and Joseph when they come of age. Then we see Thomas Rodgers paying only for 1 white pol and immediately next to him is Widow Rogers Sr paying taxes on 50 acres of land. Since she was identified as Widow Rodgers Sr., then this implies that she was older than Margaret Rodgers. Here is the record for this land amongst the deed records:

Mecklenburg Co., NC Deed Book 17, p. 25911 Dec 1811 State Grant 2152 issued at Raleigh, vol 126 p. 236, at 50 shillings per 100 acres to Thomas Rodgers by William H Hill, Secretary, 50 acres on Paw Creek entered 19 Feb 1811 adjacent Margaret Rodgers, Adam Dodd, William Lemmond, and other lands of the grantee. Witness: Gov Wm Hawkins, received in the Secretary's office by Al A. Sneed, P section, registered 21 Jul 1815

Now look at the 1808 tax list:

1808 Mecklenburg Co., NC tax list Capt McCleary's Company
Thomas Rodgers 100 acres 1 White Pol
Widow Rodgers 214 acres No pol

This proves that the Widow Rodgers Sr is tied to Thomas Rodgers. He already had 50 acres of land whose taxes were actually paid by the Widow Rogers Sr in 1807 and then in 1808 Thomas Rodgers is paying taxes for 100 acres of land. We know that this land grant of 50 acres was adjacent to "other lands owned by the grantee." The initial suggestion of this was that the Widow Rodgers Sr was the widow of Thomas Rodgers Sr who died in 1778. However, when looking at the 1810 census of the Thomas Rodgers in the area next to Margaret Rodgers, widow of Joseph Rodgers (d. 1806), this does not appear to be Thomas Rodgers Jr:

1810 Mecklenburg Co., NC Census

p. 520 Thomas Rodgers	2 males <10, 1 male 10-16, 1 male 26-45 2 females <10, 1 female 16-26, 1 female >45
Widow Rodgers	1 male <10, 1 male 10-16, 1 male 26-45 1 female <10, 2 females 10-16, 3 females 16-26, 1 female 26-45

The Widow Rodgers listed above is definitely Margaret Rodgers, wife of Joseph Rodgers (d. 1806). The Thomas Rodgers listed above is in the 26-45 age category—this means he would have been born between 1765 and 1784. Since Thomas Rodgers Jr was in fact making land purchases in 1779, his birth year must be 1758 or before. There are three possibilities: 1) the census taker simply checked the wrong box and the Thomas Rodgers of the 1810 census really should have been in the greater than 45 age category, 2) the "Widow Rodgers Sr" seen on the 1807 tax list was actually the widow of Thomas Rodgers Jr that must have died sometime between 1800 and 1807 meaning that the Thomas Rodgers of the above census record could then be Thomas Rodgers the 3rd, or 3) this represents a completely different Thomas Rodgers.

The area where this Thomas Rodgers had obtained his land grant is on Paw Creek and is in northwestern Mecklenburg Co., NC near the Lincoln and Iredell county lines. A marriage bond has been found for a Thomas Rodgers to Hannah Fininger Grissom, daughter of Drury Grissom, in Lincoln Co., NC on 30 Sep 1802. According to family files on Drury Grissom, his daughter Hannah was born about 1784, so the Thomas Rodgers seen on the 1810 Mecklenburg Co., NC census almost certainly represents a younger family—the woman in the 16-26 age category would be Thomas Rodgers' wife and the woman in the >45 age category would most likely represent his widowed mother that was seen on the 1807 taxlist.

How does one interpret this information? Is it merely coincidence that we see a David, Joseph and Thomas Rodgers appearing in northwestern Mecklenburg Co., NC just as the presumed sons of Thomas Rodgers Sr (d. 1778) had left Cabarrus Co., NC in the 1790's and early 1800's? The Joseph Rodgers of Mallard Creek who sold his property in 1788 had a wife named Margaret—the wife of the Joseph Rodgers of Paw Creek also had a wife named Margaret. But if the Thomas Rodgers seen on the 1810 census was the son of Thomas Rodgers Jr (b. 1754) and his father had died, then where are the rest of Thomas Rodgers Jr's children? Unfortunately, there are no good answers to these questions.

The David Rodgers who was with Joseph Rodgers (d. 1806) on Paw Creek in Mecklenburg Co., NC is widely believed amongst many researchers to be the David Rodgers that ultimately died in Rutherford Co., Tennessee in 1813. At this point, it was thought that DNA analysis might be able to finally resolve if these were descendants of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. Two different living male patrilineal descendants of David Rodgers (d. 1813) were identified, but neither was willing to participate in the DNA project. As such, this question has remained unanswered.

This author believes that the preponderance of evidence suggests that the Thomas Rodgers (d. 1778) of Mecklenburg Co., NC was in fact William Thomas Rodgers, son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore. Certainly the case provided is a circumstantial one, but seems to make the most sense. His children lived on Mallard Creek near the other descendants of Robert Rodgers and Margaret Thornton. Thomas Rodgers Jr (b. 1754) clearly interacted with Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829) who this author believes is the son of Joseph Rodgers and Martha Poore. Those researchers who believe that Joseph Rodgers (1735-1829) was the son of John Rodgers the Ulster Scot also believe that this Thomas Rodgers was likely his son as well. Considering that the public record has been nearly exhausted, it may not be possible to completely resolve this issue. But much research has been done and this author feels that it is important that this information be preserved in the event that some records may come to light to eventually resolve this issue once and for all.