# NOTES ON THE PROPOSED ANCESTRY OF ABNER PARROTT (1760±5-1797) OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, FATHER OF BENJAMIN PARROTT (c.1795-1839) OF OVERTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

An Addendum of information acquired since 1979 when we published BENJAMIN PARROTT, c.1795-1839, AND LEWIS STOVER, 1781-1850/60, OF OVERTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE AND THEIR DESCENDENTS COMPILED BY MAVIS PARROTT KELSEY, M.D., MARY WILSON KELSEY, CLARICE STOVER CARMICHAEL AND OPAL PARROTT STOVER, HOUSTON, TEXAS, 1979.

THESE NOTES COMPILED BY MAVIS PARROTT KELSEY, SR. #2 Longbow Lane Houston, Texas 77024-5722 1-713-686-3768

#### ABNER PARROTT, C.1760±5-1797

INTRODUCTION: When we published the genealogy of Benjamin Parrott and Lewis Stover we were unable to locate the parents of either Parrott or Stover. Contrary to our speculations on pp.1-5 in the Parrott genealogy, we have now learned that the father of Benjamin Parrott (c.1795-1839) was Abner Parrott who died in Rockingham County, North Carolina, in 1797. This essay will present the information we have gathered about Abner Parrott and his proposed family. There is evidence that Abner Parrott was one of a family of Parrotts who lived in Amelia County, Virginia in the 1750s. We believe this family descended from Parrotts who came to the Virginia Colony from England in the seventeenth century. This essay will attempt to correct, bring up to date and speculate on what we know about our Parrott ancestors.

WILL OF ABNER PARROTT: This will, dated 11 September 1797, is found in Will Book 1957, p.185. This book contains old wills found many years later in a case in the clerk's office of Rockingham County, Wentworth, North Carolina. The will was also published in *The North Carolinian*, November 1955. We have several certified photostats and handwritten copies of the original will which is quite legible. It is signed and sealed by Abner Parrott with his signature, along with the signatures of witnesses.

#### "In the name of God Amen

"I Abner Parrott of Rockingham County, State of North Carolina being weak in body but of sound memory calling to mind the quality of this life and the certainty of death do make & ordain this my last will and Testament in the following manner to wit first I will that my negros Dick, Will, Tamor & her child be sold on credit a while to the best advantage & when collected the money to be put in Interest til my sons come of age & then to be divided among them viz William Benjamin Joseph & Abnor the other two negroes Juno & Lucy I leave to my wife & Daughter viz Juno to my wife and Lucy to my Daughter Michal I also leave my land whereon I now live to my wife during her life & then to be divided between my four sons above mentioned. I also desire that the hundred & sixty acres of land I have of Peter Williams in Caswell be sold to the best advantage to pay my debts & whatever there is coming to me out of my father's Estate I leave to my wife & the child she is now big with if it live, if not to go to my wife & Daughter Michal ~ I also will that as much of my stock and household furniture be sold as may discharge my debts & what is left be applied to the use of my wife & children furthermore I appoint my friends Richard Hill & James Grant Excess of this my last will and Testament whereof I have set my hand & seal this 11th day of September in the year of our Lord on thousand seven hundred & ninety seven.

Signed, Sealed & delivered

Abner Parrott (Seal)

in presence of

Nat Dickerson

Isaac Hill &

Charles Price"

On page 279, Will Book 1957 is a letter found among the old wills (apparently addressed to Abner Parrott), signed I. Williams.

Dear Sir: Pittsylvania Co. Aug 17th 1793

Mrs. Williams has just arrived for Polly with an explanation she has come in from the Yadkin with her cousin Robert Williams. Should it not be the case, she will thank you to send him on to your brother for her. I have been very busy for some time, part in settling the books, etc., of the estate, and have nearly got them finished. There appears most in favor of the estate than I expected when you left here. I shall be more able to inform you the next opportunity Betsy & myself will be with you at the association which happens in October next. We are all well, except Fanny who has been unwell for several days with a bad cold and fever. Mrs. Williams and Betsy join me in love to you and your lady,

I am yours (?) ----

I. (or J.) Williams.

N.B. Excuse my being in a very great hurry. I.W.

In summary the will states

1. Negroes Dick, Will, Tamor and her child be sold, and the money be put to interest til my sons come

of age then divided equally among them: William, Benjamin, Joseph and Abner.

- 2. The other negroes Juno (Ed: The widow Elizabeth sold Juno, 25 December 1797.) and Lucy to my wife (not named) and daughter Michal.
- 3. Land where I live to wife during her lifetime then to four sons equally. (Ed: 981½ acres on Wolf Island Creek.)
- 4. 160 acres, I have of Peter Williams in Caswell County sold for debts, and "whatever there is coming to me out of my father's estate I leave to wife and child she is now big with, if it lives, if not to go to wife and daughter Michal."

Various census reports of his children suggest that Abner Parrott was born about 1760+5 years which is about twenty years before he received a land grant in North Carolina. We do not know his place of birth but believe it may be in Middlesex or Amelia County, Colony of Virginia. More about this later. Several later documents prove Abner's wife to be Elizabeth who mothered the children named in his will, including the child in esse and others not named in the will. Later documents name these children, Riland, Elizabeth Jr., and Margaret.

There are court records concerning Abner Parrott, his widow Elizabeth, Abner's proposed father Benjamin Parrott, Sr., and proposed brother Benjamin Parrott, Jr.

In 1779 Abner Parrott received a state grant for land on Burchfield branch of Wolf Island Creek, and both sides of Wolf Island Creek of the Dan River in Guilford (later Rockingham) County (Grant Deed Book B, No. 355, p.26).

On 22 October 1782 Abner Parrott received a state grant (Book 2, number 355) from North Carolina for 640 acres of land on both sides of Duncan's Branch adjoining Hugh Challis Corner, North side of Burchfield Fork, Constant Perkins line, Sim's line, and Richard Marr's line in Guilford (later Rockingham) County, (General Index to Real Estate Conveyances, Guilford County, North Carolina Grantees, No. 505 p.23). Nathaniel Parrott, Jesse Parrott and Isaac Parrott also obtained land grants in Guilford county during the same period.



On 29 December 1783 Ambrose Nichols, for ten pounds, sold Benjamin Parrott twenty acres on both sides of Wolf Island Creek adjoining Joshua Fendleys old deed line - being part of 400 acres formerly granted to John Graves by patent recorded in Orange County, since conveyed to Nichols. Abner Parrott witnessed this deed and proved its execution in open court (Guilford county, North Carolina Deed Book 3, page 139). In 1785 Abner Parrott witnessed a deed in Rockingham County (PBW p.9).

Abner Parrott in the 1790 Reconstructed Census of Rockingham County, North Carolina, Salisbury District, page 167:

- 1 white male over 16 years
- 4 white males under 16 years
- 4 females
- 21 negroes

If this census is correct Margaret, Michal and Riland might be part of this family, not mentioned in Abner's will. Some children probably were born or died before Abner's will in 1797, of if alive, he doesn't name them.

Abner Parrott's widow Elizabeth Parrott in the 1800 Rockingham County, North Carolina, census, page 445:

- 3 males 3-10 years
- 1 female 1-10 years
- 1 female 10-16 years
- 1 female 26 to 45 years
- 8 negroes

Adjoining Elizabeth's name on the census lists are five Williams (Nathaniel, Sr., Peter, Charles, Hugh and Benjamin) as well as Bidy Nichols.

On 9 May 1789 Abner Parrott, for 200 pounds, purchased 500 acres from Benjamin Parrott, Sr. on both sides of Wolf Island

Peter Williams & Sally Hill, Sto Isave Hill who consents, Abnor Parrott, quardian

Creek adjoining Hill, Farlow and Jesse Hammon's claim; the sale witnessed by Field Nichols and Benjamin Parrott, Jr. (Rockingham County Deeds and Abstracts - 1785-1800 Irene Webster, Madison, North Carolina, page 31 - Book C, page 38.)

On 29 May 1789 Abner Parrott, for 200 pounds, purchased 200 acres from Benjamin Parrott, Sr. on both sides of Wolf Island Creek adjoining Joshua Fenlie (Deed Book C, page 39, Rockingham County).

29 May 1789 Abner Parrott, for 200 pounds, purchased 21 acres from Benjamin Parrott, Sr. on both sides of Wolf Island Creek, on Joshua Fenlies old deeded line, "being part of 400 acres of land granted to John Graves by patent and recorded in Orange County (North Carolina in 1750) and since conveyed to said Benjamin Parrott, Sr. by deed as also the Reversions Remainder and Remainders thereof. Witnessed by Fields Nichols and Benjamin Parrott, Jr.

In August 1794 in Amelia County, Virginia, Abner Parrott was named guardian of Sarah, Richard and Isaac Hill, orphans of Isaac Hill, deceased (Amelia County Will Book 5, 1793-1797, with Order Books 20, 21, 22, by Bel Hubbard Wise, O.B. 20 p.316). Complt vs Samuel Lord (Ford?) and Thomas P. Overton, executor of Christopher Ford; deceased, who was executor of John Hill, deceased. In chancery. August term 1794. The Hills played a prominent role in the Parrott family for many years.

In 1795 Abner Parrot sold John Milby 99 acres on Duncan's Branch in Rockingham County (Deed Book D, page 189). In 1795 Abner Parrott sold William Ware 99 acres on Wolf Island Creek. On 20 March 1796 Abner Parrott purchased personal property of the estate of William Ware, deceased, in nearby Caswell County, North Carolina. Reuben Parrott also purchased at this sale. (Accounts Book C 1794-1818, page 58). In 1796 Abner Parrott sold Drury Smith thirty-three acres (Rockingham County Deed Book D, page 314).



THE WIDOW AND CHILDREN OF ABNER PARROTT: Abner Parrott probably died very soon after his will was signed 11 September 1797. Abner Parrott's widow was later known as Elizabeth Parrott, Sr. Various census reports list her year of birth between 1755 and 1776. She was probably born about 1760 in Virginia.

In January 1798 Elizabeth Parrott purchased a negro woman named Keziah for 166 pounds from the estate of Peter Smith, deceased, in Caswell County. Several Smiths also purchased (Accounts Book C, page 277) as well as Nat Dickerson who witnessed Abner Parrott's will. John Parrott (1770-1844) son of John Parrott (1730-1777) married an Elizabeth Smith in Halifax County, Virginia.

On 25 December 1797 soon after Abner Parrott's death, Richard Hill as executor of Abner Parrott's will and Abner's widow Elizabeth Parrott, sold negro woman slave Juno, about forty years of age to Martha Challas for \$200 U.S. money (Deed Book M, page 296, #1262). Deed of sale not recorded until May 1807.

On 17 May 1799, Richard Hill, Esq., Caswell County, North Carolina executor of will of Abner Parrott, deceased conveyed to John Challas and Drury Smith of Rockingham County, North Carolina, 421 acres, half of a tract originally surveyed for 640 acres but found to contain 842 acres in Rockingham County on waters of Burchfields Fork and Wolf Island Creek, (described adj. Richard Marr). (Rockingham County Deed Book I, page 83, #761.) This appears to be the land originally granted to Abner Parrott in 1782 (Guilford County Book 2, page 355).

Elizabeth Parrott, Sr. and her family were in Rockingham County during the 1800 census, described above. We then lose track of this family until 1818. Tradition has it, but I have found no proof that Elizabeth Parrott, Sr. moved her family to Georgia, possibly Greene County. She moved to be with relatives who had migrated to George from North Carolina. The family that Elizabeth Parrott is supposed to have joined was that of Benjamin Parrott, Jr., the son of Benjamin Parrott, Sr. who sold his North Carolina land to Abner Parrott in 1789.

Elizabeth Parrott, Sr. later moved to Overton County, Tennessee, with her sons Benjamin and Riland Parrott, and daughter Elizabeth Parrott, Jr. In 1823 she sold two girl slaves to her daughter, Elizabeth, Jr. for \$500 (*Tennessee Genealogical Records, Overton County*, Page 36). She lived with one or the other of her sons until she died intestate in Overton County on 9 June 1837 (Joel Petit vs. Riland Parrott, filed 24 June 1839 in Overton

County, Tennessee). The burial site of Elizabeth Parrott, Sr. is unknown.

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Beginning in 1818 we have several transactions leading to the eventual sale of the estate land of Abner Parrott in Rockingham County, North Carolina, by Elizabeth Parrott, Sr. and the children of Abner Parrott. The land was sold to William Parrott of Lunenburg County, Virginia.

Indenture 3 July 1818, between William Parrott and William Parrott (attorney for Benjamin Parrott) of County of Lunenburg, Virginia, and William and Elisha W. Estes of Danville, Pittsylvania county, Virginia for \$5,889 paid William Parrot for himself and also as attorney for Benjamin Parrott for a parcel of 981½ acres in Rockingham County, North Carolina on both sides Wolf Island Creek - to wit: adj John Durhams, Fenleys old deeded line, Nichols line, on Jesse Williams corner, Farlow's line, John Moreheads line, Murphey's line, on Halobys line. Includes appurtenances.

in presence of

Signed & sealed

William Parrott

Atty for Benjamin Parrott

John H. Watson X

Rich'd S. Ranzon

State of North Carolina, Rockingham County: August Session 1818: This deed proved in open court by oath of John Watson X. Recorded, Robt. Galloway C.C.

This deed does not state where Benjamin Parrott, (son of Abner Parrott, great great grandfather of Mavis Parrott Kelsey, Sr.) lived at this time, but he was granted an acreage in the town of Monroe, by the Commissioner's Court of Overton County, Tennessee October, 1818, (Book P, page 3). I wonder if he, Benjamin Parrott, realized any of the proceeds from his father's plantation which William Parrott sold as his attorney. This deed suggests at William Parrott of Lunenburg County is the son of Abner Parrott and brother of Benjamin Parrott. We have round no record of William, son of Abner Parrott, living in Lunenburg County. We have proved that another William Parrott, Sr. and William Parrott, Jr. lived in Lunenburg County q.v.

Rockingham County, North Carolina, Box X, pp 95-98, #3350, Parrott, William from Parrott Elizabeth and others, deceased, State of Tennessee, Overton County: Indenture 12 September 1821 between Elizabeth Parrott, Benjamin Parrott and Elizabeth Parrott, daughter of Abner Parrott, deceased, of Overton County, State of Tennessee, the one part and William Parrott of Lunenburg County, Virginia, of the other part, for \$3000 sells William Parrott 981½ acres on Wolf Island Creek, Rockingham County, for their claim under Abner Parrott, deceased, land he held and lived on and by his will devised to his wife Elizabeth (one of the parties to this deed) for her life and after her death to his four sons William Parrott, Benjamin Parrott, Abner Parrott and Joseph Parrott; the said Joseph and Abner Parrott having died without issue, Elizabeth Parrott, Jr., having claim instilled as heir-at-law of Joseph and Abner Parrott.

North Carolina Court of Please, Rockingham Co.

Elizabeth X Parrott

4th Monday of November 1821

B. Parrott

Jacob Buson and John Montgold, Esqs.

Elizabeth + Parrott

take acknowledgments in Overton County, Tennessee daughter of Abner Parrott deceased

Greene County, Georgia Book HH - 1821-1826, page 76-76 12 September 1821

State of Georgia, Greene County to wit:

this 12 day Sept 1821 AD This indenture entered into between John Powers and his wife Micheal (both of Greene County GA) and Wm Parrott of Lunenburg County, Virginia: John Powers and wife Micheal for \$400 sell to Wm. Parrott their claim in a tract on both sides Wolf Island Creek, Rockingham County, North Carolina, land whereon Abner Parrott of Rockingham County, North Carolina, lived and died and was owned by him in his lifetime and by him devised to his wife Elizabeth for her life and after her death to his four sons William, Benjamin and Abner having died and Joseph and said Joseph and Abner having died without heirs the said Micheal Powers who claims to be the sister of the said Joseph and Abner and their heirs at law claims to be entitled to a childs part of her said deceased brothers estate thereon now it is especially understood that John Powers and Micheal do transfer all their rights to etc., etc., to the said land lying in the buts (sic) and bounds following: (describes the same 981½ acres) adj John Durhams, etc., north bank of Creek, etc., etc., Joshua Farleys, etc., John Moreheads, Murphys, Halobys containing 981½ acres.

Witt:

George W. Elliott

John Powers (signature)

Chas Baldwin JP

Michael Powers (signature)

Ebenezer Torrance, CClk

Rockingham County, North Carolina, Book Y, p.24-26, No. 3544. John Morehead from William Parrott, deed 981½ acres. Indenture 2 June 1824 between William Parrott of Lunenburg County, Virginia and John Morehead of Rockingham County, North Carolina for \$5,500 paid to Wm Parrott for tract land in Rockingham County, North Carolina on both sides Wolf Island Creek, bounded by John Durhams, Joshua Finleys, Farleys, John Moreheads, Murpheys corner, Halabys. Includes "appurtenances". William Parrott

Witnesses:

James Tallowhead

J.L. W. Briscoe

Rockingham County, North Carolina - June Session 1824 - proved and recorded - Ro. Galloway, C.C.

This is the final sale of the Abner Parrott estate land. William Parrott apparently bought the interests of all the heirs before selling it to John Morehead. William Parrott, attorney, of Lunenburg county may not be the William, son of Abner. He may have been a cousin, the son of William Parrott, Sr., grandson of William Parrott (1712-1742) who was first located in Amelia county, Virginia, q.v.

THE CHILDREN OF ABNER AND ELIZABETH PARROTT: The following information has been learned about these Parrott children. The Abner and Elizabeth Parrott family who once lived in Rockingham County, North Carolina, included at least eight children. Abner Parrott's will names four sons; William, Benjamin, Joseph and Abner, all underage in 1797, and daughter Michal. The outcome of Elizabeth's pregnancy, mentioned in Abner's will, is not known. The pregnancy may have produced son Riland, one of the three children not named in the will who are Riland, Margaret and Elizabeth, proven to be children of Elizabeth Parrott in the Petit vs Parrott lawsuit q.v. Underage daughters were sometimes not listed in early wills and this may explain why they are not listed in Abner Parrott's will. Apparently they are accounted for in the 1800 census of Elizabeth Parrott, Abner Parrott's widow. Census reports, often inaccurate, indicate that these children were born after Abner's death, but we have not found another marriage for Elizabeth, Abner's widow, and she was still known as Elizabeth Parrott, Sr., at the time of her death.

- 1. William Parrott was born between 1776 and 1790 in Virginia or North Carolina. He may or may not be the William Parrott of Lunenburg County, Virginia who bought the Wolf Island property of Abner Parrott's estate from Abner Parrott's legatees and eventually sold it in 1824. William Parrott was alive in 1841 as one of the heirs of Elizabeth Parrott, Sr. (Petit vs Parrott). The Mississippi, Leake County census lists a William Parrott for the years 1840, 1850 and 1860, born between 1790 and 1800 in North Carolina. The 1850 census lists him with (a son?) Abner J. Parrott, age 27 born (1823) in Virginia. Patricia Frensilli has traced members of this family to the 1900 Mississippi Census. There was a William Parrott in Captain J. Wickers Company (Legal Notices in Georgia newspapers). Also there was a William Parrott family in Laurens County, Georgia in the 1820s and '30s. It should be mentioned that a William Parrott, too old to be our William, received a Headright and Bounty Grant in Washington County, Georgia (1789-1793) and is so listed in the reconstructed 1790 Georgia census, No. 156. Greene and Hancock Counties were then a part of Washington County.
- 2. Benjamin Parrott, the great, great grandfather of this writer was born before 1797 probably before 1795. In census reports, his children give conflicting reports of his birthplace, including Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia, the truth being Virginia or North Carolina. Tradition has it that, as a youth, Benjamin moved with his widowed mother to Georgia to be with relatives. He died 13-28 February 1839 in Overton County, Tennessee. The Parrott-Stover book was written about his family. Benjamin Parrott was granted land in Overton County, Tennessee in October 1818 in the town of Monroe. He was reported in the 1820 Overton County, Tennessee census (two males aged 16-26, Benjamin and possibly brother Riland; two females, 16 to 26 years old, possibly his wife and a sister, probably Elizabeth, Jr., and one female over 45 years probably his mother, Elizabeth, Sr.) Benjamin's wife and the date of their marriage are unknown. She may have been a Petit and census reports indicate she was born in Tennessee. She died before 1837 (Petit vs Parrott). The couple had four children known: daughters Micheal (Micah) Parrott (1822-1859/60); Catherine Parrott (1824-after 1860); William Giles Parrott (1825-1905) great grandfather of this writer; and John Parrott (1830-1901). The 1830 census suggests that there was another son, one who possibly died young (See Parrott-Stover book).

- 3. Joseph Parrott, the third son of Abner and Elizabeth Parrott was probably born by 1790 but was not of age in 1797. Abner Parrott's widow, Elizabeth, listed only three young males in the 1800 Rockingham County, North Carolina census. Joseph Parrott died without issue before 1818 when his father's plantation was sold.
- 4. Abner Parrott, son of Abner and Elizabeth Parrott was not of age in 1797. Abner Parrott died without issue before 1818 when his father's plantation was sold. Apparently he was still living as one of the three young males listed in his widowed mother's 1800 census.
- 5. Micheal Parrott, (1785-1849), daughter of Abner and Elizabeth Parrott has a descendant, Clifford Blake Powers. His wife, Mrs. Virginia D. Powers, 1309 Normandy Road, Macon, Georgia 31210 has compiled Micheal's family history. Micheal Parrott was born in 1785 near Danville, Pittsylvania County, Virginia according to her tombstone. She could have been born in Rockingham County, North Carolina since her father's land was near the Virginia state line, and the Caswell County, North Carolina line on Wolf Island Creek, all very near Danville, Virginia.

On 17 May 1802 Micheal married (1) Pleasant Hardwick in Danville, Virginia. They moved to Georgia where Hardwick died within a year or two in Burke County. Micheal then moved to Hancock County, Georgia where her relative Benjamin Parrott lived. She married (2) on 21 July 1809, John Powers from nearby Greene County. Powers (1779-1854) was from Halifax County, Virginia. The couple then moved to the newly formed Monroe County where Micheal died 15 April 1849. John Powers (in right of his wife Micheal was listed as an heir of Elizabeth Parrott, Sr. (Petit vs Parrott). John Powers' unsigned and undated will, entered into court of Monroe County, Georgia, September 1854 names only a son Abner Parrott Powers and sons by him, Nathan Beal Powers and John Powers. Mrs. Virginia Powers lists these additional children of John and Micheal Powers: Julie Ann Powers, Narcissa Powers Griffin; Sarah Micheal Powers Whittle; John Hawkins Powers; and Mary Elizabeth Powers Griffin.

Speculation concerning the name Micheal Parrott for a girl: There was a Micheal Parrott (a male) in Surrey County, Virginia in the 1650s (Evalyn Parrott Scott, p.49). There was a Micheal Parrott in Gloucester County, Virginia in 1704, possibly another son of Robert Parrott, Sr., the son of Richard Parrott II. A Micheal Parrott married Ann Palliser 9 April 1757 in Virginia. The name Micheal was passed down in the girl children in our Abner Parrott family for at least three generations, suggesting a blood relationship with the men named Micheal Parrott.

6. Elizabeth Parrott, Jr. was the daughter of Elizabeth Parrott, Sr., probably by Abner Parrott. She may be one of the four females in Abner Parrott's family recorded in the 1790 North Carolina reconstructed census. Although she is not mentioned in Abner's will in 1797; she is probably one of the females listed in the 1800 census of Elizabeth Parrott. Elizabeth Parrott, Sr. gave daughter Elizabeth, Jr. two girl slaves in 1823 in Overton County, Georgia.

In Petit vs Riland Parrott (1839-1841) Peter Williams is named as a brother-in-law of Riland Parrott. It is assumed by exclusion, that Peter Williams is the husband of Elizabeth Parrott, Jr. and represented her as one of the six heirs of Elizabeth Parrott, Sr. in their claim against the estate of Benjamin Parrott, deceased. Peter Williams is probably of the Williams family which were neighbors and possible relatives of Abner and Elizabeth Parrott in Rockingham County, North Carolina, and who probably migrated with the Parrotts to Georgia and to Tennessee. The marital record of Elizabeth Parrott, Jr. is not clear. Georgia marriage records reveal that this Elizabeth Parrott also married Samuel H. Russell formerly of Chatham County, Georgia on 12 January 1826 in Greene County, Georgia. Samuel Russell is named in the Petit vs Parrott lawsuit as a brother-in-law of Benjamin Parrott. During the lawsuit he brought to Overton County for collection, a note for \$2000, executed by Benjamin Parrott to John Powers, Benjamin's brother-in-law married to Micheal Parrott, of Greene County, Georgia. But Samuel H. Russell was not named in behalf of Elizabeth Parrott, Jr. In her claim against the estate of Benjamin Parrott. Samuel H. Russell must have been divorced from Elizabeth, Jr. Records indicate he had at some previous time, financial problems himself. On 3 July 1816 he sold 200 acres in Eatonton, Putnam County, Georgia and two negroes, in a sheriff's sale to satisfy debt. (Georgia Journal, Milledgeville V.1, p.588)

- 7. Margaret Parrott, daughter of Elizabeth Parrott, probably by Abner Parrott, although not listed in his will, like her sister Elizabeth is known by a number of records. She may be one of the four listed females in Abner Parrott's 1790 North Carolina census and one of the females in Elizabeth Parrott's 1800 North Carolina census. In Petit vs Parrott, listed as one of Elizabeth Parrot, Sr.'s six heirs, Margaret was represented by her husband Isaac Hill. During the two year lawsuit her husband Isaac was drowned 30 September 1840. Isaac's father, Robert Hill, became his executor and then represented Margaret. In father Robert Hill's will he leaves part of his estate to the six children of his deceased son Isaac Hill. (Marshall County, Tennessee Will Book A, p. 98-99 2 August 1843.) Margaret Parrott Hill was born 16 December in South Carolina 1804 according to the 1850 census, probably an error) and died 8 July 1888, the place of death unknown. We have not located a marriage record for Isaac Hill and Margaret Parrott. The Hill family, like the Williams family, had close ties with the Parrott family in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee. Note that a Richard Hill was executor of Abner Parrott's will in 1797.
- 8. Riland Parrott, son of Elizabeth Parrot, probably by Abner Parrott, was probably born in Rockingham County, North Carolina and lived in Overton County, Tennessee. Census reports are very confusing, suggesting he was born before 1790 or between 1800 and 1810., He was not named in Abner Parrott's will and may have been the child in esse named in that Parrott will.

Evelyn Parrott Scott reports that Riland Parrott married Serena McDonald. They lived in Dalton County, Georgia, where he died in his 80s and she at 89. Their first son William was killed at the Battle of Murfreesboro as a Union soldier. The second son Benjamin was poisoned by his second wife. They had a grandson to drown, but one made a famous baseball player.

In 1839, after Benjamin Parrott's (1790-95 to 1839) death, Joel Petit, administrator of Benjamin's will filed suit against Riland Parrott. The suit alleged Riland had kept in possession a note for \$400, part of the \$1200 proceeds from the sale of a valuable slave, a blacksmith named Jerry. Riland had withheld the note claiming that the proceeds from the sale belonged to the six heirs of their mother Elizabeth Parrott, Sr. The lawsuit dragged on for two years, before Petit won the case. The proceedings provided a great deal of genealogy about the family of Abner and Elizabeth Parrott.

Mention was made in the court proceedings that a group of forty negroes in Georgia were entailed to the heirs of Elizabeth Parrott, Sr. but that there was little likelihood of gaining title to them. Census records shows that Abner Parrott once owned twenty-one slaves in North Carolina. His prospective brother Benjamin owned sixteen slaves in Georgia. These families lived in rich tobacco lands in North Carolina and Georgia. But our Parrott family which moved to Tennessee beginning in 1818, fell on hard times. Benjamin and Riland Parrott died in poverty.

## BENJAMIN PARROTT, SR. OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, PROPOSED FATHER OF ABNER PARROTT

Benjamin Parrott, Sr. is recorded in Guilford (later Rockingham) County, North Carolina first on 18 August 1778 when he obtained a land grant for 500 acres on both sides of Wolf Island Creek, the water of Dan River, "beginning at the mouth of Gum Branch", adjoining Jesse Hammons, W. Hills N.W. corner, Farlows and Fenlies. This grant is part of the land in the estate of Abner Parrott, which Benjamin Parrott, Sr. sold to Abner 9 May 1789 in an area which became Rockingham County in 1785. In 1779 Benjamin Parrott, Sr. owned a plantation originally granted to John Graves by patent and recorded in Orange County, North Carolina in 1750 and later conveyed to Benjamin Parrott, Sr. by deed (date not stated). On August 1779 he obtained a note for a 500 acre land grant on Wolf Island Creek. On 13 November 1779 he purchased a three-and-a-half acre tract from Jacob Stillwell on Wolf Island Creek. He bought twenty acres on Wolf Island Creek from Ambrose Nichols on 29 December 1783.

Old Guilford County, North Carolina Records, p.8; note that on 20 May 1782 Benjamin Parrott was appointed overseer of

the road from the Virginia State line to Owen's Ferry, to Richard Marr's. The Benjamin Parrott plantation was on both sides of Wolf Island Creek in the Northwest quadrant of the County near Caswell County, North Carolina and Pittsylvania County, Virginia, near Danville. Benjamin Parrott was appointed assessor for Challis District, Guilford County, North Carolina 1781-1782.

Benjamin Parrott, Sr. and Bidy Nichols, as executors of the estate of John Nichols, deceased, of Rockingham County, North Carolina sold 95 acres on the North side of Hogan's Creek (in southwest quadrant of the County) on 6 October 1788.

There are no records to be found of Benjamin Parrott, Sr. and Benjamin Parrott, Jr. in Rockingham or surrounding counties after Benjamin Parrott, Sr. sold his plantation to his son or brother Abner Parrott. The possibility that Benjamin Parrott, Sr. moved to Georgia with his son is discussed in the section about his son Benjamin Parrott, Jr. who moved to Hancock County, Georgia after 1789.

BENJAMIN PARROTT, JR. (CA 1770-1837) OF HANCOCK COUNTY, GEORGIA, PROPOSED BROTHER OF ABNER PARROTT (CA 1760 +/-5-1797): Benjamin Parrott, Jr. is first identified as a witness to the two sales of land by Benjamin Parrott, Sr. to Abner Parrott in May 1789 in Rockingham County, North Carolina. At some time after 1789 Benjamin Parrott, by family tradition said to be Abner Parrott's brother, moved to Hancock County, Georgia. He was listed in the 1804 Hancock County Tax Digests. By 1812 he was on the tax lists with fifteen negroes and several farms adjoining Sledge, Brown, Metcalf and Wooten. (Index of Early Tax Digests of Georgia 1790-1818. Georgia Department of Archives, p.67.)

Benjamin Parrott, Jr. (c.1760-1837) married (1) Racheal Harvey probably around 1790 before he seems to have left North Carolina for Georgia. She was the daughter of John Harvey, the son of Thomas Harvey, born in Lunenburg County, Virginia, in 1745. John Harvey died in Clarke County, Georgia, and in his will (1822) made a bequest to grandson John H. Parrott, the son of Racheal Harvey Parrott. Racheal apparently died before John Harvey's will.

Benjamin Parrott's second marriage was 28 June 1828 (sometimes mistakenly recorded as 1838) in Greene County, Georgia to Patience Johnson, John Wood officiant (40,0000 Georgia Marriages). We don't know the outcome of this marriage.

Benjamin Parrot married third, Nancy Williams, born 1795 in North Carolina, in Greene County, Georgia on 14 February 1833. After Benjamin's death Nancy married (2) William Hightower on 29 August 1838 in Greene County, Georgia (Southern Centennial, Augusta, Georgia).

It is possible that Benjamin Parrott, Sr. and Jr. both came to Georgia after Benjamin, Sr. had sold his land in Rockingham County, North Carolina to Abner Parrott in 1789. The 1790 Reconstructed Georgia Census lists a Captain Parrott, #158, in Washington County which at the time included what became, among others, Greene and Hancock counties. Benjamin Parrott, #159, was on the Muster Roll of Capt. Parrott's Company. Benjamin Parrott, Jr., #160, was listed in Washington County. Lt. Benjamin Parrott enlisted 28 January 1814 under Captain Stephen Cole, Capt. William Copeland Evans, Infantry.

Many Parrotts in addition to those of our family moved to Georgia in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and received land grants in the general area that Benjamin Parrott, Jr. settled. This land opened for settlement when the Creek Indians were driven out. Among the grantees were Henry Parrott 1784-1795; Elijah Parrott, 1790; Ludford (Ledford) Parrott, 1803; James Parrott, 1803-1809; Nathaniel Parrott, 1804; Augustin Parrott, 1818; Tyre Parrott; Latney Parrott; Rueben Parrott; and Obadiah Parrott. These settlers came from Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina.

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A William Parrott #156 also had a headright in Washington County. He would be too old to be William, the son of Abner Parrott. The Southern and Centennial and Universal Gazette of Augusta, Georgia, p.249 named Capt. Benjamin Parrott's

command, also a William Parrott in Capt. Wilkins Company. The men in Capt. Parrott's district also included Benjamin Parrott, Sr., p.239 (the same person?).

Benjamin Parrott, Jr. acquired additional land grants in 1804 (#164 in Hancock County, 2nd District, and in 1820; 200 and 200½ acres in Greene County, on Shoulderbone Creek. Shoulderbone Creek was one boundary of the fabulous tobacco land of Cracker's Neck in Greene, Putnam and Hancock counties. This was the early home of many important Georgia families including the Parrotts (*History of Green County, Georgia, 1786-1886* by Dr. T.B. Rice, Reprint, Spartenburg, South Carolina, 1979). Benjamin Parrott was on the Hancock County jury in 1816 (*Georgia Journal* 21 August 18186, p.586).

Benjamin Parrott's 1820 census - Hancock County, Georgia, p.85, lists one male 16 to 21 years old; one male 26 to 45; one female under 10, one 10 to 16, one 16 to 26 and one female 26 to 45 years old; one foreigner, not naturalized. Benjamin Parrott's 1830 census record in Greene County, p.302 lists one 15-20 year old male, one 50-60 year old male and one 30 to 40 year old female. There was no Benjamin Parrott in the 1840 and 1850 Greene County censuses.

Benjamin Parrott's will, dated 11 March 1837, recorded 26 July 1838 in Greene County, Georgia (Will Book F, p.216), names wife Nancy, children John (H.?), Rebecca, Ann, Margaret and Hannah. Benjamin's son, Abner Parrott, is not named, since he died in 1822.

The children of Benjamin Parrott are now described with some data from Georgia records which have not been properly confirmed or proven.

- 1. John Harvey Parrott (sometimes copied as John Henry or John M.) Was probably born in Hancock or Greene County, Georgia, probably before 1800. He probably married on 2 June 1831 Laurena Lewis who died before 1843-50 (*Macon Telegraph* 11 June 1831). John Harvey Parrott apparently died before the 1850 census.
- 2. Abner Parrott was born about 1800. He was an honor student at fifteen years of age at a Millidgeville Academy. His fate is recorded in the Mt. Zion Missionary, Mt. Zion, Hancock County, Georgia Marriages and Deaths 1820-1830. "Abner Parrott, Esq. 22 year old son of Benjamin Parrott Esq. Of Hancock County, Georgia died 23 December 1822 in the Village of Newtonborough in Newton County, Georgia. He had just entered the profession of law."
- 3. Hannah Parrott, daughter of Benjamin and Racheal Parrott, was born 12 July 1800. She married James Eley about 1820. Hannah died 2 May 1841 at age 41, all probably in Georgia. (Micheal Eley Bible. From Georgia DAR records.)
- 4. Ann Parrott. No information.
- 5. Margaret Parrott. No information.
- 6. Rebecca Parrott, aged 14, is found in the household of William and Nancy Hightower in the 1850 census. If this is Benjamin's daughter she is by Nancy Williams Parrott (later to become the wife of William Hightower). If so, she was born when Benjamin was nearly sixty years old. Otherwise this Rebecca may be a granddaughter.

#### SEARCHING FOR THE LINEAGE OF ABNER PARROTT (1760 +/-5-1797)

Since we have found no wills, deeds, bible records or other documents to establish the parentage of Benjamin Parrott, Sr. and Abner Parrott we must proceed with circumstantial evidence found in legal documents.

Abner Parrott was an established, literate, family man with a plantation and twenty-one slaves recorded in the

1790 North Carolina Census. Abner Parrott was not likely to be so well off, had he been an emigrant. Family tradition has him to be the brother of Benjamin Parrott, Jr. Thus he is also a son of Benjamin Parrott, Sr. from who he bought land in Rockingham County, North Carolina.

A study of the established Parrott families who came to Virginia and Maryland in the seventeenth century uncovers at least two Parrotts who could be an ancestor of Benjamin Parrott, Sr., and his son Abner. For example a Benjamin Parrott, born 13 January 1697 in Dorchester County, Maryland, sold his land and apparently left Dorchester County with his wife Katherine for parts unknown in 1737. There were many Benjamin, Williams and Abners among his forbears. He was a descendant of William Parrott (1622-1668) who settled in Maryland. We could find no records suggesting this Benjamin Parrott came to Virginia or North Carolina.



We could not establish a connection with Nathaniel Parrott or Lawrence Parrott who were seventeenth century settlers in Virginia, even though their descendants are found in South Side Virginia.

Our most plausible ancestor is Richard Parrott I (c.1619-1686) who came from England and settled in Middlesex County, Virginia. He was an illustrious man whose large family is well documented. His descendants were widely distributed in Virginia before the American Revolution. The first three generations of Richard Parrott's family are described in some detail in *Links That Bind* by Evalyn Parrott Scott, 1967. One of Richard Parrott's children by his first wife Sarah Leye was a son known as Richard Parrott II (1650-1696). Richard Parrott II, on 11 February 1672 married Sarah Curtis Halfhide (1657-1693/4), the daughter of Thomas and Averilla Curtis.



Among the eight known children of Richard and Sarah Parrott was Robert Parrott, Sr. (1685-1723) of Middlesex County. Robert Parrott, Sr. on 25 March 1706 married Catherine Daniel (c.1688-1735), the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Smith. Robert and Catherine Parrott had six children born in Middlesex County, and recorded in Christ Church Parish. The children were: Robert Parrott, Jr., Sarah Parrott, William Parrott, Elizabeth Parrott, John Parrott, and James Parrott. This family became numerous in South Side Virginia and the Northern counties of North Carolina. Later several members also migrated to Georgia like our Parrotts did. We believe that son William Parrott is the progenitor of our proposed ancestor Benjamin Parrott, Sr. who is found in Amelia County in the 1750s and '60s.



Amelia County, Virginia, was formed in 1735 from upper Prince George (formed 1703) and Brunswick (formed 1732) Counties. Amelia County included parts of Bristol and St. Andrews Parishes which were changed to form Raleigh Parish coterminous with the final Amelia County. Prince Edward County was cut out of Amelia County in 1754. Halifax County was formed from Lunenburg in 1752 while Charlotte County (1765) was formed from Lunenburg County. These boundary changes took place while our Parrott families lived in these counties. I will describe each family briefly as they are recorded in legal records such as will books, deed books, marriages, records and tax lists in these and adjacent counties.



### WILLIAM PARROTT OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA (1712-1742)



The earliest known William Parrott who might be in our family was the son of Robert Parrott, Sr. (1685-1723) and Catherine Daniel Parrott (c.1688----). This William Parrott was born 20 May 1712 in Middlesex County, Virginia and died 15 October 1742, probably in Middlesex County. We believe his wife was Dorothy and they had a daughter Elizabeth christened on 13 December 1741. This description is taken from Evalyn Parrot Scott's Links That Bind, p.60 and Linda Leighty's description of her Parrott family in, Parrott Talk 1992-93 Annual, pp.12-33. Most of the documentation comes from the records of Christ Church Parish, Middlesex County, Virginia.

William Parrott (1712-1742) is the brother of James Parrott and John Parrott and probably is the father of Benjamin Parrott, Sr. (C.1740-1779) of Rockingham County, North Carolina and William Parrott, Sr. (C.1740-1824) of Halifax County, Virginia. All these individuals were found in the Amelia County, Virginia County tax rolls during the 1750s to 1770s, living near each other, witnessing documents for each other, and mingling with the same families of Amelia County (Watkins, Bookers, Caldwells, Estes, Johnsons, Robinsons, Dickersons, Beasleys, Griffins, Hills, Williams, Beufords, Jones, Purkason, Ligons, Farlows). These various families migrated westward together passing through Prince Edward and Charlotte counties to settle for years in Lunenburg, Halifax, Pittsylvania and other South Side counties and in adjoining Caswell and Rockingham counties, North Carolina. By 1800 these families had begun moving down the Great Wagon Road to Georgia and Tennessee.

WILLIAM PARROTT OF LUNENBURG COUNTY, VIRGINIA (c.1740-1824): This William Parrott, probably the son of William Parrott (1712-1742) was first noted in Amelia County on 25 May 1761 when he witnessed the purchase by Benjamin Parrott (his proposed brother) of 400 acres of land on Snailes Creek from Cornelius Short.

On 10 March 1768. William Parrott is found in Lunenburg County - processioning Henry Robinson's line with John Brown, also John Brown's line in presence of William Parrott. William Parrott processioned this land in 1772 and 1776. On 8 January 1784 he and Benjamin Estes, Jr. were ordered to procession all the land between Meherrin River and Reedy Creek, the Horsepen Branch and the path that goes to Wards road, to Jennings road near Mrs. Gregorys and Jennings road (Cumberland Parish, Lunenburg County, Virginia Vestry Book 1746-1816, Langdon Bell, 1974).

1769: One William Parrott had four tithes and 100 acres in Lunenburg County, Virginia. Another William Parrott had no tithes and 200 acres. Later documents suggest these are William Parrott, Sr. and William Parrott, Jr.

From 1772 to 1775 William Parrott was listed with two to nine tithes for self and as overseer for Christopher Robinson and later for Henry Robinson of Amelia County and for William Glynn and Robert Estes, Sr. (Sunlight on the South side, List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia by Langdon Bell).

In 1768 William Parrott was witness to a land transaction in Lunenburg County, Virginia. In 1782 to 1787 William Parrott, Sr. was listed among Lunenburg County taxpayers with one poll and six slaves (*Parrott Talks*, May 1980, p.16 from *Virginia Tax Payers 1782-1787*; Fathergill and Naugle Genealogical Publication).



In 1782 William Parrott, Sr. was one of sureties for Micheal Johnson, who was to build the Lunenburg County courthouse. William Parrott, Sr. was involved in numerous land transactions in Lunenburg County between 1778, or earlier and 1797 or later. His wife Ann was also named in many of these transactions.

On 12 March 1778, William Beasley to William Parrott (Deed Book 13, No. 94).

On 14 December 1780, Samuel Jeter to William Parrott (Deed Book 13, No. 367).

On 1 October 1785, Henry Coates, formerly a resident of Lunenburg County to William Parrott. Coates confirms that he aligned 400 acres in Lunenburg County, to Parrott (No. 361). Witnesses: Benjamin Estes, Jr. and others.

On 12 January 1786, Henry Coates to William Parrott (Deed Book 14, No. 361).

On 1 October 1789, William Parrott to Lewis Cantilow part of tract formerly of Henry Coates. Witnesses: Henry Robertson (Robinson?) And William Beasley (Deed Book 15, No. 459).

On 14 June 1792, Richard Johnson to William Parrott (Deed Book 16, No. 223). On 11 April 1793. William and Ann Parrott to George Craighead (Deed Book 16, p.326).

On 12 September 1793, Richard James and Letitia Johnson, Dower relinquished to William Parrott (Deed Book 16, pp.384 and 386).

On 11 December 1793, William Parrott and his wife Ann Parrott to Thomas Estes (Deed Book 16, p.405).

On 4 April 1797, Henry Newbill to William Parrott, 56 acres adjoining William Parrott.

From the 1770s to the 1820s William Parrott is mentioned in a number of deeds of land adjoining him on Reedy Creek. William Parrott was witness to various transactions and occasionally was surety or went bond for administrations and other undertakings. For example on 10 March 1795 he was surety for Sharp Lamkin, in settling the will of John Neal.

In 1820 William Parrott, Sr., deeded some land and his thirteen negroes to his son William Parrott, Jr. (Deed not located). I haven't studied the Lunenburg records enough to know when William Parrott, Sr., reduced his activities and his son William Parrott, Jr. became active in business. On 11 October 1817 William Parrott, Jr. was surety for Nancy Collins' marriage to Harrison Elder. It is possible that this William Parrott, Jr., a first cousin of Abner Parrott was the one who purchased the Abner Parrott plantation from Abner's widow and heirs between 1818 and 1824 before selling the plantation to John Morehead.

William Parrott, Sr. wrote a will recorded on 10 December 1822 which states that "except the land in William Parrott, Jr.'s, possession for the past two years," he grants to his wife (Ann) "All my estate that I now possess both real and personal including the land on Reedy Creek" (described), with negroes (names thirteen). At the death of his wife the property was to go to William Parrott, Jr. A disagreement occurred between father and son. William Parrott, Sr. had already given the negroes to William Parrott, Jr. In a lawsuit William, Sr., recovered half of the negroes. William Parrott, Sr. wrote a new will on 8 October 1824 leaving his wife Ann all the estate for use during her natural life, then to his beloved niece Susan C. Beasley, of Petersburg, Virginia, for her natural life to be held by trustees Miles Jordan and Stith E. Burton. wife of Edwin Beasley. At death of niece Susan C. Beasley the negroes and rest of the property was to go to the children of Edwin and Susan Beasley. Executor: friend Edmund F. Taylor, Miles Jordan, and Thomas \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Witnesses: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Elder, Travis Elder and Archibald Rose. Signed: Wm Parrott and recorded 8 November 1824. Then more lawsuits followed.

William Parrott, Jr. and his wife Betsey (Elizabeth) are recorded in a number of transaction in Lunenburg County. On 7 March 1829, William and Betsey Parrott, his wife sold land to James and Thomas Fisher. On 11 December 1829, William and Elizabeth Parrott sold William R. Jordan 200 acres in Lunenburg County, Elizabeth relinquishing her dower. (Deed Book 29, pp.19-20). On 12 August 1833 William Parrott, Jr. sold to John B. Wilson all his interest in the estate of James Watkins, deceased purchased of Micheal Walker, a legatee.

There is another interesting record concerning Amelia County, Virginia Parrotts: On 16 September 1762, William Burdett of Amelia County, Virginia gifted his son William Burdett Parrott with 200 acres on Snow Creek in Halifax County, Virginia. (Halifax County, Virginia Deed Book 4, p.92)

On 3 August 1767 William Burdett of Nottoway Parish and Amelia County purchased from Richard Yates and Elizabeth, his wife, fifteen acres of in the fork of Nottoway River bounded by James Bueford, Huckleberry Pond and Main Road. Witnesses: James Bueford, Richard Ellis and Henry Bueford. (Amelia County, Virginia Deed Book 9, p.282) A William Burett Parrott is noted later in Halifax County, Virginia.

Isham X Parrott in Charlotte County is not identified. 7 December 1764 Isham Parrott, David Logan, and David Caldwell witnessed a land transaction of 100 acres (Buchanan, Farmer Townes and Marshall named) in Lunenburg County (Charlotte County, Virginia Deed Book 1 and 2, 1765-1771, p.41 by Joane L. Nance, p. 9, 1990.

We believe the William Parrott, Sr. of Lunenburg County is the one listed in *Virginia Revolutionary Publick Claims*, V.II Lunenburg County: William Parrott - horse 6 years, by Brigadier Genl Lawson, 15 November 1782. (Abercrombie & Slatten, Herean Publishing Co., Athens, Georgia).

I must have unknowingly stumbled over many Parrott women in this study. Often women were not mentioned in family documents. Surely some of these Parrotts who listed a half dozen or more sons must have had at least a few daughters.

BENJAMIN PARROTT OF AMELIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA: In 1758 Benjamin Parrott was one of a group of men from Amelia County, Colony of Virginia, who was paid five pounds, six shillings, by the Colonial government for service in the defense of the frontier; for protection against the Indians. Ordered by the General Assembly meeting in Williamsburg on 14 September 1758. (Henning's Statues V.7, p.202). We believe this is Benjamin Parrott, Sr. (C.1741-1790/1800), son of William Parrott (1712-1742) of Middlesex County and the same Benjamin Parrott, Sr. of Rockingham County, North Carolina, the father of our Abner Parrott.

On 25 May 1761, Benjamin Parrott of Amelia County, Virginia for 75 pounds, bought from Cornelius Short of Halifax County, Virginia 400 acres at head of Snailes Creek bounded by Collins, Griffin, Johnson and Jones. Witnesses: Thomas Payne, Ambrose Beasley and William Parrott (Prince Edward [previously Amelia] County, Virginia Deed Book 2 [1759-1765], p.65).

On 19 September 1763 Benjamin Parrott witnessed a deed in Prince Edward County when Henry Johnson of Prince Edward County sold William Griffith 80 acres on Snailes Creek.

From 10 October 1763 to 31 March 1764, Benjamin Parrott with Rice Scott, Henry Ligon, William Young processioned land in Prince Edward County between Griffins Road and Moores ordinary, and Sandy River. In 1767-1768 Benjamin Parrott was replaced on the list of processioners (Brokshaws *History of Prince Edwards County*, 19555, pp.49-50).

On 20 May 1765 there was a land sale 200 acres adjoining Parrott from William and Samuel Young to John Pemberton in Amelia County.

In 1765, Benjamin Parrott vs Robert Sibley (Charlotte County, Virginia, Deed Book 1, p.48).

In 1769 Benjamin Parrott had a water grist mill on Cub Creek (formerly in Amelia County Charlotte County, Rich Indeed by Board of Supervisors). I believe Benjamin Parrott, Sr. had a grist mill on Wolf Island Creek. My great great grandfather Benjamin Parrott had a grist mill on Eagle Creek in Overton County, Tennessee.

On 1 July 1772, in Charlotte County, an indenture deed from David Caldwell's estate to Benjamin Parrott: Paul Carrington and Robert Caldwell, executors of will of David Caldwell, deceased, late of Charlotte County and Benjamin Parrott of said County. David Caldwell in his lifetime sold for forty pounds Virginia currency to Benjamin Parrott 120 acres in Charlotte County on Cub Creek. Paul Carrington and Robert Caldwell sell this land to Benjamin Parrott. Land described on Cub Creek James W. Coles, including all outhouses and buildings, waters and watercourses.

Robt Caldwell Excr. L.S. P Carrington Excr. L.S.

In presence of court

Held at Charlotte County Court 1 July 1771

Truly Recorded -- Test: Thomas P? Clk

Benjamin Parrott had bought 120 acres from David Caldwell but Caldwell died before the transaction was completed. The deed was finally fulfilled by the executors of David Caldwell's will in court of 1 July 1771, the same day that Benjamin Parrott sold the land to Walter Coles. The Cub Creek land of Benjamin Parrott is described in Amelia, Prince Edward and Charlotte Counties documents. The change of county boundaries may explain this; certainly the land didn't move.

On 12 April 1763, Benjamin Parrott, one of securities for Mary Dudgeon, executrix of William Dudgeon (Charlotte County Wills 1765-1791, p.64 recorded 4 February 1771, TLC Genealogy, p.20). In 1769 Benjamin Parrott had a credit to the estate o David Caldwell as did John Dudgeon, Robert Williams and others. (*TLC Genealogy*, p.58: Charlotte County, Virginia Wills 1765-1791, p.191.)

On 1 July 1771, Benjamin Parrott and wife Hannah of Charlotte County, Virginia for forty pounds, sells 120 acres in Charlotte County on Cub Creek to Walter Coles of Halifax County. Tract bounded by Coles, same tract conveyed to Benjamin Parrott by executors of David Caldwell, deceased, by a Charlotte County deed dated 1 July 1771. Signed Benjamin Parrott and Hannah X Parrott. Hannah relinquished her right of dower. (Deed Book L, p.78 No. 467). This same deed registered 2 May 1774 (Charlotte County Deeds 1717-1777, Deed Book 3, p.48, No. 403).

Also in 1769 Benjamin Parrott had a debt to the estate of William Fuqua, as did John Dickerson and Mary Dudgeon. Recorded 2 February 1778 when all accounts were settled. On 2 January 1775 Benjamin Parrott was one of the appraisers of the estate of William Fuqua (*TLC Genealogy*, p.36).

On 21 February 1774 Benjamin Parrott and his wife Hannah sold the 400 acres on Snailes Creek to Samuel Burks, who was from Henrico County, Virginia (Prince Edward County, Virginia Deed Book 5, p.241).

In 1774 land sold adjoining Parrott's land on Nottoway River in Amelia County. This is the last transaction we find on Benjamin Parrott, Sr. until he (Benjamin Parrott, Sr. [the same man?]) purchased land in Guilford (later Rockingham) County in 1778, q.v.

#### JOHN PARROTT (1720/32?-1777) OF HALIFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Most Parrott genealogists believe that John Parrott was the son of Robert Parrott, Sr. of Christ Church Parish, Middlesex County, Virginia and that he was born there on 12 November 1720-32. There is disagreement about his date of birth which suggests that there is some confusion about which John Parrott is being described. This John Parrott is found in Amelia County, Virginia as early as 7 December 1759 when Edmund Booker of Raleigh Parish, Amelia County, Virginia sold John Spenser of same for eighty pounds fifty acres in Amelia County



adjacent the line of Hestor, Truly, Booker's Mill pond, Flat Creek as it meanders and including the mill. Witnesses: Richard Booker, Jr., John Smith and John Parrott (p.260).

On 27 November 1761, John X Johnson and Lucy X Johnson, his wife of Nottoway Parish, Amelia County to John Parrott of Raleigh Parish, Amelia County, seventy pounds for 100 acres in Amelia County in fork of Nottoway (River) on Yarbrough's branch being same land said Johnson purchased from John Hayes, with all woods, etc. witnesses: Edmund Booker, John Roberts and William Manire, (p.533A). John Johnson paid twenty-five pounds for this land on 20 April 1761, and sold it to John Parrott 27 November 1761 for seventy pounds. John Parrott sold it for 120 pounds in 1776.

On 27 September 1762, William X Russell and Mary X Russell his wife of Lunenburg County, Virginia to Joseph Gooch of Amelia County for 150 pounds, 203 acres in Amelia County adjacent John Pride, Flatt Creek, Gooch and John Drinkwater. Witnesses: Edmund Booker, Simon Clement, John Parrott and Jason Bocock. p.703 (Amelia County, Virginia Deed 1759-1765, Deed Book 7 and 8 abstracted by G.J. McConnaughey).

In 1765, John Parrott settled in will of Samuel Jordan (unexplained note).

On 21 October 1767 from Abner Bates, planter, and wife Pheba, of Amelia to Daniel Thompson of Amelia County 165 pounds for 303 acres on south side Little Nottoway River, bounded by Johnson, Yarborough, Jones, Ellis, Major Waller. Signed: Abner Bates, Pheba + Bates. Witnesses: John Dickerson, John Parrott, Ruth Parrott, recorded 22 October 17667 (p.214).

On 25 May 1769 William Jennings of Amelia County to Joseph Jennings of same for five pounds, ten acres in Amelia County, adjacent the spring that Joseph Jennings uses, a line between my barn and his apple orchard, Cabin Branch and line of said Joseph Jennings. Witnesses: Edmund Borum, Archelies Dickerson and John Parrott. Recorded 25 May 1769 (p.6). On 28 February 1771, John Fowlkes and Sarah his wife of Nottoway parish, Amelia County to Jennings Fowlkes of same. 105 pounds for 225 acres in Nottoway parish on south side of Little Nottoway River, adjacent Zachary, Daniel Thomson, Parrott, Jennings, Fowlkes and John Fowlkes. Witnesses: Jesse Walton, Jeremiah Walker and Alexander X Bailey. Anna, wife of Samuel Thomson relinquishes her dower (p.82, deed repeated on p.90).

On 1 January 1776, John Parrott of Nottoway parish, Amelia County to Charles Bailey of same, 120 pounds for 100 acres in Nottoway parish, land where John Parrott lives, adj lines of Parrott, David Thompson, John Folkes and Stith Bowliney. Witnesses: John Knight, Henry Robertson and W. Peter Robertson p.105. Ruth Parrott, wife of John Parrott relinquished dower on 18 march 1776. Amelia County, Virginia Deeds - 1773-1778 - Deed Books 12, 13, 14. By G.J. McConnaughey.

John Parrott sold his farm in Amelia County in 1776. He is found in Halifax County in 1777 (Court Order Book, 1764-1782). One source says that John Parrott (1730-177) lived in Lunenburg County before moving to Halifax County. The list of tithes, Lunenburg County names John Parrott with eleven tithes, 815 acres and one chair in 1772. (Sunlight on the South Side. Lists of Tithes in Lunenburg County, Virginia 1748-1783 by Boddie. There is another report that this John Parrott was overseer of Elisha Betts plantation in Lunenburg County in 1790. This was a later John Parrott. There are several revolutionary veterans in Virginia named John Parrott. Since this John Parrott died In 1777 he is unlikely to be a Revolutionary soldier; while his son John Parrott may have been a veteran.

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18 February 1777, John Parrott's will: "being very sick and weak in body I lend to my dearly beloved wife, Ruth Parrott, my land and movable estate during her widowhood and if she marries what the law provides and the rest to be equally divided among my children. Executor: Wife, Ruth Parrott, Thomas Stanfield and John Link. N.B. and after my wife's death her thirds to be divided amongst all my children. Wits: William Stanfield, Elijah Parrott, Robert Hall, Robert Stanfield, John Chambers ------ Proved 21 August 1777. (Halifax County Index of Wills N to Z - 1752-1949 Will Book 1 p.81).

On 15 June 1780, an indenture in which Artha Brooks of Cazwell County, North Carolina sells to Ruth Parrott, wife of John Parrott, deceased and Elijah Parrott, Sussannah Parrott, Penelope Parrott, Elizabeth Parrott, James Parrott, Judith Parrott, John Parrott, Nancy Parrott, Sally Parrott and Mourning Parrott heirs of said John Parrott, deceased and Thomas Stanfield, Exec. of said Parrott, all of Halifax County, Virginia for the sum of 40 pounds a tract of land in Halifax County on waters of Lawson's Creek containing 210 acres. Signed: Artha & Sally X Brooks. Sally relinquished right of dower. (Deed Book 12, p.126, Halifax County, Virginia Deeds - from Parrott Talks August 1980.) Ruth Parrott, probably John's widow, is listed in the 1790 Halifax County, Virginia census.

There are many documents and much published genealogy about the descendants of John Parrott, but I have never before seen this John Parrott traced back to Amelia County, Virginia. Several writers agree that he and James Parrott are brothers.

#### JAMES PARROTT (1722-1778) OF LUNENBURG COUNTY, VIRGINIA

James Parrott is said to be the son of Robert Parrott, Sr. of Christ Church parish, Middlesex County, Virginia. He was born in Christ Church Parish 11 November 1722. In 1743 he married Catherine Parrott of Mecklenburg County, Virginia. Catherine may have been a widow. James Parrott was on the Amelia County tax lists, according to Mrs. Royston Tuck. On 16 September 1765 James Parrott was one of fifty or more people settled in the will of Samuel Jordan, deceased of Amelia County whose will was probated 26 February 1761. Among those named were several whose families had long time association with the Parrott family as they migrated into Lunenburg and Halifax Counties, Virginia, Rockingham and Caswell Counties, North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia. Names included: James Lamkin, Joseph Hightower, John Nance, James Beuford, John Irby, William Hamblin, Elisha Estes, Andrew Johnson, John Beasley, Drury Hawkins, Reuben Johnson, Peter Jones, Caleb Purkason. In 1750, 1751 and 1752, James Parrott is listed among the tithes of Lunenburg County in Isaac Winters Quarters. 1750 - three tithes, p.155; 1751, three tithes, p.162; and 1752, four tithes, p.182. (Boddie, Sunlight on the South side.)

James Parrott died during the American Revolution, too old to be a soldier but he may have been a patriot by lending support, thus being one of the James Parrotts who are listed among soldiers.

Census records show that James Parrott lived in Mecklenburg County, Virginia where his children were born. He died in Halifax County in 1779 where inventory of his estate is recorded. (Will Book 1 including Inventory and Accounts pp.249 and 293.)

On 20 April 1778, in accounts current of James Parrott, deceased; administrator, his son Thomas Parrott: One third of the estate (351 pounds, ten shillings) went to his widow (Catherine). The following sons each received 100 pounds, 8.6 shillings and 5 pence: Thomas Parrott, Ledford Parrott, Joel Parrott, Lewis Parrott; Reuben Parrott; Latney Parrott and John Parrott. No mention is made of daughters. The sons of James Parrott have been the subject of extensive genealogical research and publication. In 1790 Catherine Parrott, probably widow of James Parrott is listed in Halifax County in the 1790 Virginia census.

Robert Parrott Senior (1685-1723) died while his children were young, none having reached adulthood. William Parrott was ten, John was three and James was one year old. After Robert Parrott, Sr. died his widow is said to have married John Williams who might be of the Williams family living with Abner Parrott's widow who herself might have been a Williams in Rockingham County (1800 census).

John Parrott and James Parrott also died when their children were young. We don't have documents but the samewould be true of the children of William Parrott, our prospective ancestor, who died at thirty years of age in 1742. The early death of fathers, often without leaving a will, was common during the eighteenth century. This misfortune often disrupted families and dispersed the children. The orphans records in those days were very extensive. If we could find these records we might prove our Parrott lineage.

Attached are family group sheets and a pedigree sheet which are based on the circumstantial information I have located. Hopefully other genealogists will fid it true or be able to correct my speculations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: I am grateful to Virginia D. Powers of Macon, Georgia who first informed me that Abner Parrott was father of our Benjamin Parrott. Virginia Powers' husband, Clifford Blake Powers, is a descendent of Abner's daughter Michal, who is named in Abner's will. (*Parrott Talk Annual*, 19911, pp.109-110).

I am deeply indebted to Evalyn Scott Parrott whose book *Parrott: Links That Bind*, 1967, and her newsletter, *Parrott Talk* have been invaluable references. Evalyn has answered all my inquiries and made numerous suggestions. She is a remarkably active person. I have spent many hours in the Clayton Genealogy Library, a branch of the Houston Public Library, often taking my secretary Pat Marburger along to help.

Patricia Parrott Frensilli of Rockville, Maryland has been a tremendous help. She has done much research in my behalf. I am also indebted to Harold S. Reksten of Hockessin, Delaware, who has studied my proposed lineage and offered advice. County clerks in Rockingham and Caswell counties, North Carolina and Pittsylvania, Halifax and Lunenburg counties of Virginia have been very helpful. I will be plaguing these nice people again to criticize these lengthy notes about the origin of just one ancestor. At least these notes are an original effort to pull a confusing group of Parrotts together into one family.

Mrs. Royster (Fay) Tuck of South Boston, Virginia, a professional genealogist was the first one to suggest that Benjamin, John, James and William Parrott came from Amelia County, Virginia, and may have been brothers. I've built my thesis on this suggestion.

#### TEN GENERATION DESCENT CHART

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1	Richard Parrott I	= Mrs. Sarah Keye (Dale)Widow Nicholas Dale
	born c.1619	born
	where England	where
	died 11 Nov 1686	died
	where Middlesex Co VA	where
2	Richard Parrott II	= Mrs. Sarah Curtis (Halfhide 1657-1693)
		Dau Thomas (1630-) & Averilla (1630-) Curtis
_	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	born 24 Feb 1650	born 16 Aug 1657
	where Middlesex Co VA?	where Gloscester Co VA
	died 1696	died 26 Dec 1693
	where Christ Church	where Christ Church
	Middlesex Co VA	Middlesex Co VA
3	Robert Parrott, Sr.	= Catherine Smith Daniel - M2. John Williams
diam	born 25 Oct 1695	born 1688 Day Henry & Elizabeth Smith
	where Middlesex Co VA	where both born 1650, Married 25 Mar 1704
	died 9 Aug 1723	died war daniel + Joseph Smith
	where Christ Church	where
	Middlesex Co VA	2 (-1694) (>1694)
4	William Parrott	= Derethy Proposed
	born 20 May 1712	born
	where Middlesec Co VA	where
7	died 15 Oct 1742	died
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_		where Hannah Proposed almost Certain
5	Benjamin Parrott. Sr.	<del></del>
	born c.1740-32	born
	where Middlesex Co VA?	where
	died	died
	where GA?	Where
6	AbnerParrott = Elizabeth	(Have will. Well documented to ancestor.)
	born c.1760±	born c.1775
	where VA Amelia Co?	where VA or NC?
	died 1797	died 18 Apr 1836
	where Rockingham Co NC	where Overton Co TN
7	Benjamin Parrott=	(Well documented as ancestor.)
-4	born 1790-95	born
	where Rockingham Co NC	where TN
	died Feb-Jun 1839	died 1839
	where Overton Co TN	where TN?
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8	Dr. William Giles Parrott	= Mary Stover (Daughter Lewis Stover, Sr. B 1781 - NC D 1850 Overton Co TN)
	born 1826	born 1826
	where Overton Co TN	where Overton Co TN
	died 28 Sep 1905	died 11 Mar 1893
	where Young Co TN	where Young Co TN
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9	Elijah Thomas Parrott = Vi	rginia Ann Massie (Daugher John B. Massie [1781-1910]
	h 02 Para 3050	B. VA & Betty Ann Massie [1839-1920] B. KY
	born 21 Aug 1853	born 1861
	where Nashville TN	where Plembroke Christian Co KY
	died 10 Jul 1919	died 1938
	where Throckmorton Co TX	where Throckmorton Co TX
3 (	O Ronita Parrott = John Poo	ger Kelsey (Son Dr. J.B. Kelsey [1856-1923]
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	born 9 Jan 1892	born 14 Nov 1890
	where Throckmorton Co TX	where Barton Marshall Co MS
	died 3 May 1980	died 5 Oct 1977
	where Paris Lamar Co TX	where Paris Lamar Co TX
٦.	1 Mauie Darrott Kelegy h	7 Oct 1912 = Mary Randolph Wilson b. 16 Jun 1910
4.	Deprot TX Married 17 Sep	1939 Beaumont TX (Dau James Cooke Wilson 1879-
	pobrac in twitted in peb	1944 & Mary Bradley Randolph 1883-1961
	,	Both died Beaumont TX
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	John Parrott	12 Nov 1720	Christ Church P	arish	1 *	VA	Ruth			
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