

NICHOLAS SESSOMS  
AND  
SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS

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## DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the memory of my wife, Earline Rebecca Sessoms Morgan (4 May 1927 - 13 May 1990), whose life personified and gave meaning to the words dignity, devotion, dedication and determination.

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## INTRODUCTION

### **Purpose and Scope:**

When this work was first started some seven years ago, the purpose was to identify and record as much information as possible regarding the ancestors of my wife, the late Earline Sessoms Morgan. But, as the records began to show that very possibly all Sessoms or Sessums living in the United States descended from a single ancestor, one Nicholas Sessoms, the purpose and scope changed to identifying and recording as many descendants of Nicholas Sessoms as existing records would substantiate.

While, like most genealogical endeavors, this work falls short of being all inclusive, it does form a base whereby most Sessoms or Sessums who can trace their lineage to Virginia or North Carolina can justify the remainder of their line.

### **Documentation and Acknowledgments:**

Special attention was given to documenting the source of information used in the text. The primary source is quoted when possible. When a secondary source is used, a declaration is made as to whether it

was documented or undocumented. Also, it is stated whether an ancestor's relationship is proved or unproved. When a relationship is unproved, a case is made to support the connection if there is sufficient information.

While most of the material contained in this work is the result of original research, some was taken from the published and unpublished works of others. An extended effort was made to give these compilers full credit, and only those parts which pertained to a Sessoms ancestor were used. To these and the many others who assisted me in gathering information I am indeed grateful. I would especially like to thank Kathryn Sessoms McLaurin and her daughter Jocce McLaurin for their research assistance.

**Use of Materials:**

Only 50 copies were printed and it was not developed to be sold. Consequently, permission is given for the full use of this information, as long as it is not included in a publication made for sale.

James E. Morgan, Jr.  
Sumter, South Carolina  
December, 1990

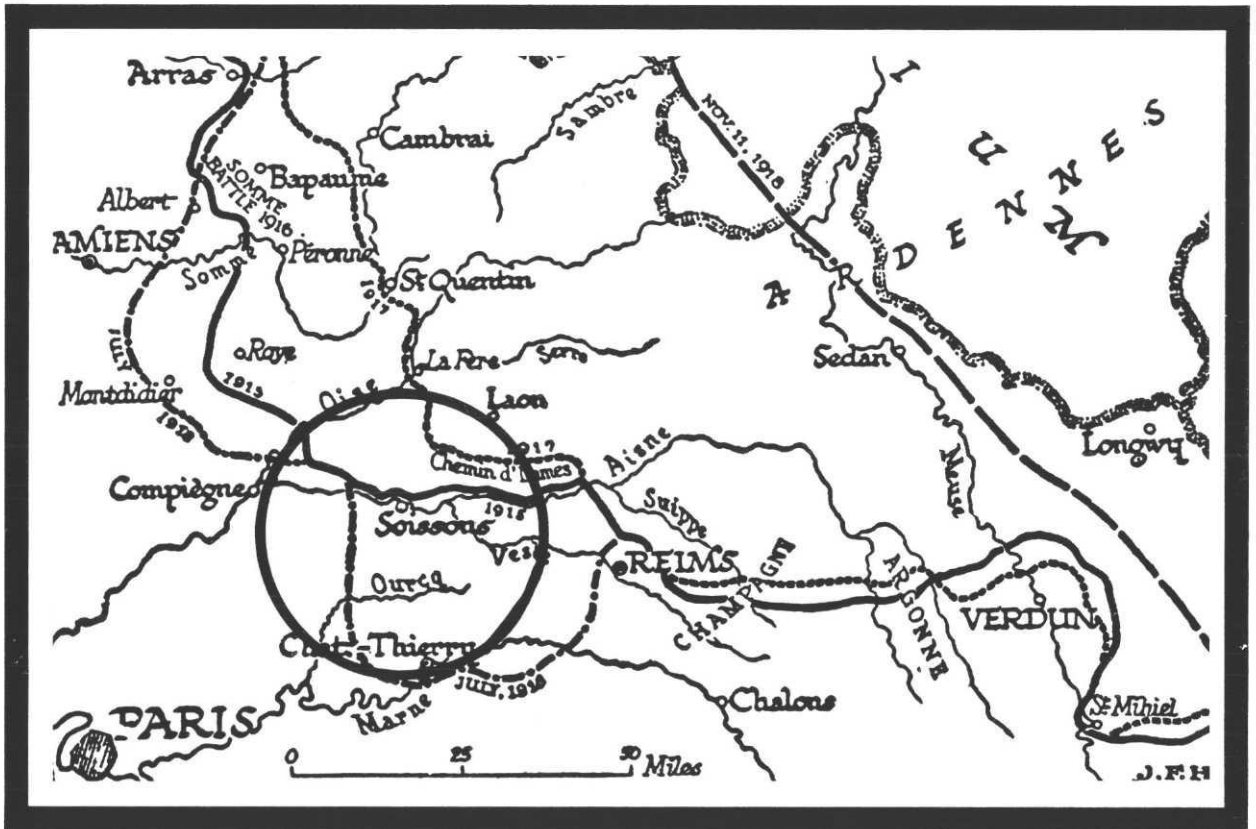
## Part One

### THE NAME SESSOMS

The surname Sessoms appears to be a variation of Sessions, which in English means "One who came from Soissons", a city of France situated about 65 miles northeast of Paris on the left bank of the Aisne River. (see Map, page 1a)

It is to be understood that until about A.D. 1100 most people in Europe had only one name, but as the population grew, individual surnames originated to provide more specific identity. Where a person was from was one of the four main sources of surnames, the others being occupation, the father's name, and personal characteristics. Therefore, we can assume the first Sessoms or Sessions was from France and took an English surname sometime after A.D. 1100. The French influence on English surnames came into being after the Norman Invasion in the 12th Century and the migration of French Huguenots due to religious persecution in the 1500's. However, since the name Sessions or Sessoms was well established in England prior to the Huguenot migration, we can further assume that the first Sessoms arrived during the Norman conquest.

Despite the fact that the name most probably derives from Sessions, the Sessoms name was given a



Map showing the City of Soissons, France where the Sessoms family got its name.

"Coat of Arms" and its design is found in **Burke's General Armory** (see cover). "Coat of Arms" originated to identify knights of opposing armies in battle since their armor obscured their identity. First painted by knights on their battle shields, when the practice became more popular, particular designs were woven into cloth surcoats which were worn over a suit of armor. Thus, the term "Coat of Arms". To preclude two knights from having the same design, records were kept that granted a particular design to a certain knight. The knight's family also shared his right to display the Arms. In some cases, these records were preserved and printed in book form, such as **Burke's General Armory** cited above. The fact that the Sessoms family had its own Coat of Arms suggests that it was a noted family in early English history.

#### **The Name Sessoms in America**

In discussing the name Sessoms in America, names of similar spelling must be clarified. As indicated above, the name Sessions is a distinct surname although it is often used interchangeably with Sessoms. Care was taken in researching this work to keep these names (Sessoms and Sessions) from being confused. Another confusing name of similar spelling is Sisson.

There were three immigrants named Sisson



imported to Virginia during the Colonial period: Robert and his wife Mary who were in Virginia prior to 1658 (Nugent, Vol. I, p. 387) and Thomas Sisson who came before 1691 (Nugent, Vol. II, p. 371). Robert and Mary settled in old Rappahannock County and Thomas came to Charles City County, but left a will in Surry County. Intense research revealed no connections between the Sissons and Sessoms, although the name Sisson was used instead of Sessoms on several early Virginia and North Carolina records.

The spelling of the name as SESSQMS or SESSUMS also requires clarification. The name is the same, whether spelled with an Q or with a U, the difference in spelling being the failure to close the Q by the clerks keeping records or when records were abstracted, with the two spellings often being found on the same document. In later years, some members of the Sessoms family spelled their name with a U, while others retained the original spelling with an Q. For example, of the approximately 3,100 people in the United States named Sessoms, about 2,100 spell their name Sessoms, while the remaining 1,000 spell it with a U. (Source: 1970 U.S. Census Data).

In searching for the immigrant ancestor of the Sessoms in America, research was restricted primarily to Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware. While this research revealed three early immigrants with the

name Sisson and several Sessions as clarified earlier, only one Sessoms was found. It is therefore the conclusion of this compiler, with a reasonable degree of certainty, that all Sessoms (either spelled with an O or a U) were a descendent of this one ancestor. Moreover, as further discussion will indicate, it can be concluded with absolute certainty that those Sessoms who can trace their lineage to Virginia or North Carolina, did in fact descend from this one ancestor and that ancestor was one Nicholas Sessoms.

## Part Two

### NICHOLAS SESSOMS, IMMIGRANT ANCESTOR

Nicholas Sessoms, along with six others, was transported to the Colony of Virginia by Arthur Allen, for which Mr. Allen received 350 acres of land "on a bra. of Black Water Surry Co., Va." according to a land patent dated 14 June 1678. (Nugent, Vol. I, p. 186). Although the land patent was dated in 1678, Nicholas Sessoms arrived much earlier, for we find that in a Surry County Court held in July, 1710, the records state: "Certificate is granted Nicholas Sessoms to the Secretary's office for 50 acres of land for importation of himself into the Colony, he having made oath as the law directs, having been in the Colony forty four years and was a servant when came in" (Surry County Order Book 1691-1713, p. 352). This would place his arrival in the Colony of Virginia in the year 1666. This date is further substantiated by the fact that on 9 March 1670, "Mrs. Alice Allen (assumably the wife of Arthur Allen) discharges Nicholas Sessoms of all claims of debts". (Surry County Record Book I, p. 405). This would mean that Nicholas worked for Mr. and Mrs. Allen the customary four years to pay off the debt for his transportation to the Colony of Virginia. Nicholas Sessoms is also listed in **Servants to Foreign**

Plantations (p. 83) as coming from England, and in the book **Bristol and America**, Nicholas is shown as being transported from Bristol, England between 1663-1679 (p. 117). From this we conclude that Nicholas Sessoms arrived in the Colony of Virginia from Bristol, England in the year 1666 as a servant, worked for Mr. and Mrs. Allen of Surry County for four years, and became a free man after he discharged all claims and debts in 1670.

### **The Headright System**

Nicholas Sessoms was imported by Mr. Allen of Surry County under a system called "Headright", designed by Virginia and other colonies to encourage population growth of a vast and empty land. Under the system, 50 acres of land were granted to a person for transporting himself with an additional 50 acres awarded for any other person for whom he paid passage. In most cases, the person being transported (called indentured servants or bond slaves) would have a contractual agreement with the person paying for his passage to serve as a servant for a period of time (normally four years). After the term of indenture, the servant would be entitled to 50 acres of land and other accommodations, and become a free man or woman and take his or her place in society. Unlike Negro slaves, indentured servants were protected by English law to be treated fairly, and in many cases they were considered a member of the master's family.

There were two classes of these servants: one class was those who wanted to come to Virginia, the other was made up of those who were forced to come. Those who wanted to come were those who came under the Headright System and had an agreement to pay for their passage. Those who were forced to come were penniless orphans, beggars, petty criminals, prisoners of war, unfortunate debtors, and persons who were kidnapped. Persons who had committed serious crimes were prohibited by Virginia law from being sent over. While records do not reveal whether Sessoms was rich or poor, the fact that he came as a "Headright" means that he came as a matter of free choice, and was not forced to come.

### **Background**

When Nicholas Sessoms arrived in Surry County in 1666, Virginia was well established. The terrible days of constant hunger, inadequate shelter, fatal plagues, inept management and other hardships which had made the early years of the colony a time of sheer horror, were practically over. Not only had Virginia become self-supporting, but with tobacco she had found a crop by which fortunes could be made. Plantations were privately owned, the House of Burgess was meeting in

Jamestown, there were settlements along all principle rivers, there was a population of approximately 15,000, and for many life was comfortable and pleasant and for a few in Surry County it was even luxurious.

In contrast, England was in turmoil politically, religiously and economically. Charles II became king after Charles I had been beheaded in 1660, shifting the form of government from a Parliamentary system of "Rule of Law not by Men" to one of "Divine Rights" where the King made and enforced all laws. On the other hand, Virginia insisted upon and maintained the right of self-government. Moreover, prices in England were high and unemployment was widespread, filling the land with "violent rogues and sturdy beggars". Ownership of land was difficult for even the well off, and next to impossible for the poor, while in Virginia land was so plentiful that it went begging to be owned. So under such conditions, it is not surprising that Nicholas Sessoms sought a better life in the New World.

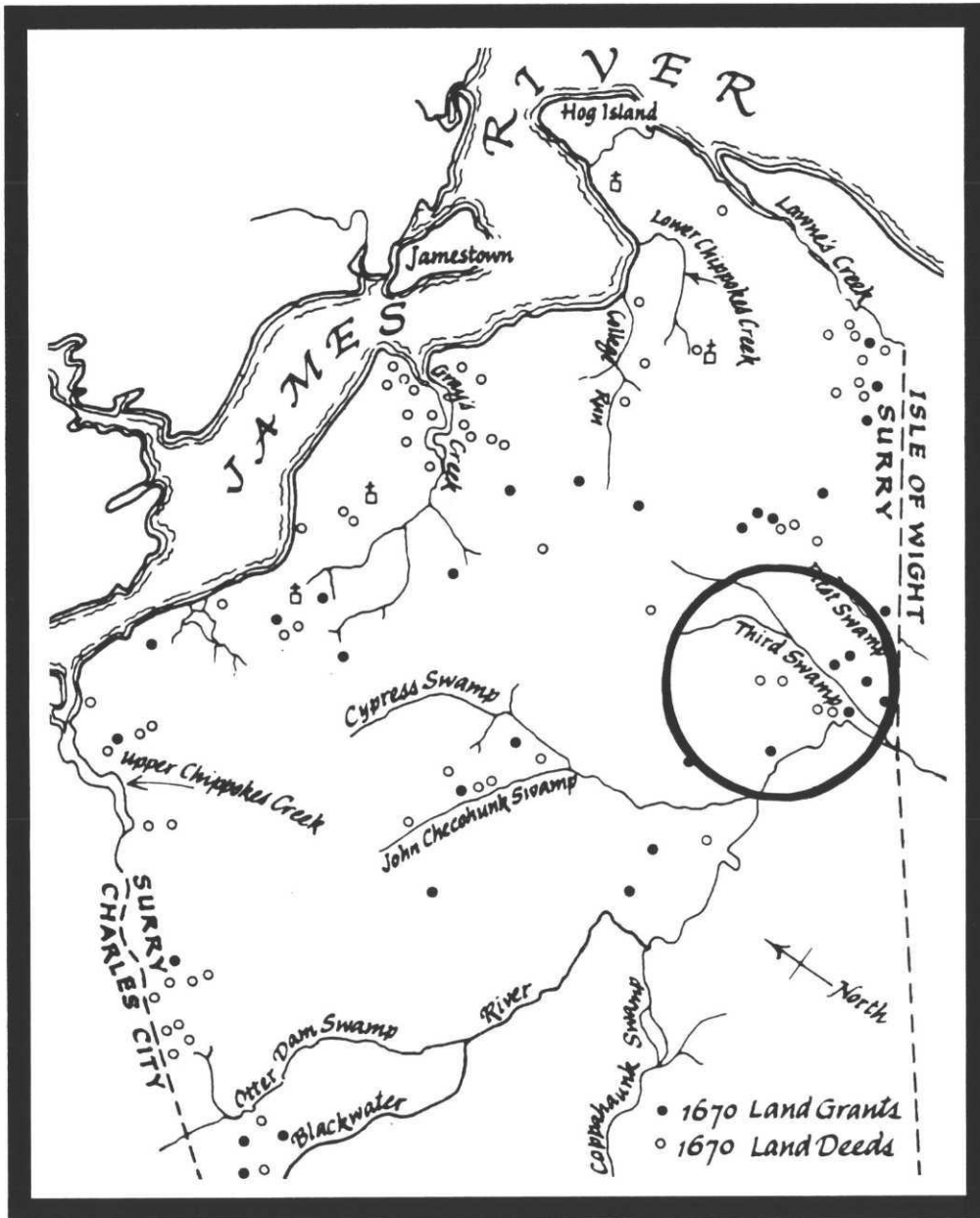
This does not mean, however, that when Nicholas Sessoms settled in Surry County in 1666 that it was a well developed land. To the contrary, Surry County was very sparsely settled. In 1668, for example, the tax rolls show that there were only 216 white males over the age of 16 in the County, with an estimated total population, counting Indians, Negro slaves, women and children, of about 1,700. This population, except

Indians, was mostly concentrated on a few plantations widely scattered over a vast area of woods, swamps and streams. (see Map, pages 9a)

Wild animals abounded, including bears, the Eastern cougar (panther) and wolves. Apparently there was a bounty paid for wolves for in the September, 1697 Court, Nicholas Sessoms was paid 600 pounds "for two wolve's head taken in a pit" (Order Book 1691-1713, p. 187).

Indians did not seem to be a problem during the times of Nicholas Sessoms, although there was a fort on Black Water River where he lived and the records for 1687, show that he served in the Surry County military (for horses).

Although mandated by the State that roads be built by the County, the roads of Surry County in the 1600's were little more than trails, passable only by wagon or horseback. These roads were built and maintained by court appointed overseers and work crews taken from the tax rolls. However, despite these conditions, by 1713, Nicholas Sessoms had a road (or highway) by his plantation, for in the October, 1713 Court, Henry Hart was appointed "to oversee the highway going over the main swamp to the main road by Nicholas Sessoms", and the records of 1714 mention a road "from Bynchen Soughbridge to Nicholas Sessoms' warehouse at the mouth of Grog's Creek".



Map showing Surry County Virginia and location of Nicholas Sessoms' plantation on Black Water River and Lownes Creek Parish.



Education of the 17th Century in Surry County, as well as other Virginia counties, was under the control of the established church which was the Church of England. But, since the population was so widely scattered, few children could be concentrated in one place except on the large plantations. Consequently, the schooling of children and, in many cases, servants became the responsibility of the plantation owner.

Records do not show whether Nicholas Sessoms received an education either in England or America. Records do show, however, that he considered the education of others very important. For example, in his will (which will be discussed later) he provided for the education of his granddaughters to wit: "Desire granddaughters to be well educated by Ethelred Taylor, Hannah and Mary Black and take over plantation after my death". Also, in a Court held in November, 1696, when Susanna Nash is bound to Nicholas Sessoms as an indentured servant, he is ordered by the Court to "oblige himself (among other things) to teach her to read, sew and spin perfectly". Then in the 1699 Court, the records show this: "Joseph Manyard bound to Nicholas Sessoms who obliged himself in Court at the expiration of the said Maynard's time of service to give him (among other things) two years of schooling".

## Biographical Information

Although Virginia had a highly structured class system, it was unlike the one in England where a person's class was determined at birth: In Virginia one's class was determined by wealth and social position, which could be earned. Despite the fact that Sessoms came to the Colony as an indentured servant, in his lifetime he had achieved both wealth and social position placing him in the highest class of all - the gentry.

Once he had served the four year indenture to pay for his transportation and was released by Mrs. Allen in 1670 to become a free man, Sessoms began to take advantage of the opportunities available to him by accumulating land, slaves and producing commodities for trade and sale. Using the Headright system, by paying the passage of others, over a 12-year period, he had acquired an estate of some 1,800 acres of land (for patents of this land, see Nugent, Vol. I, pp. 199, 276, and 362). Most of this land was located on Pigeon Creek, Black Water River, in Surry County (see Map page 9a). Considering the average plantation in Virginia at the time was 628 acres, Sessoms' 1,800 acres was large even by Colonial standards (Colony Surry, Bodie, p. 86). In addition to land, the plantation most likely included a manor house, barns

and servant quarters as well as the warehouse mentioned earlier in the Court records.

Besides a large plantation, Sessoms owned slaves, both Blacks and American Indians, as well as indentured servants who were working off their cost of transportation. For example, the 1702 Tithables (tax list) for Southwark Parish shows that Sessoms owned 4 servants living in his household and 98 others living on his plantation. (**Colonial Surry, Bodie, p. 209**) Regarding Indians being servants, the October, 1711 Court, page 378, had this to say: "Nichs. Session (sic) producing an Acct. against the Publick for his Indian mans working on the Lines at James Town Sc. & having made oath that he never received any satisfaction for the It is therefore ordered to be certified to the next Genll. Assembly for allowance."

In addition to land and slaves, other sources of wealth were tobacco, corn and pork, with tobacco proving to be a chief money crop in 17th and 18th Century Virginia. It is evident, from Court records, that Sessoms was a large producer of all three of these commodities. For example, in a Court held on 1 March 1680, Thomas Warren, William Foreman and Nicholas Sessoms were bound to the Court for 40,000 pounds of tobacco in the estate settlement of Thomas Warren, Sr. (**Surry County Record Book I, 1617-1684, p. 11**). In another Court action of 19 January 1691, Sessoms was

granted 780 pounds of tobacco from Thomas Mathers (Order Book 1691-1713, p. 20); and again in September, 1694, Sessoms brought suit against Joseph Rogers, asking for 10,000 pounds of tobacco in damages because Rogers had falsely "accused him of burning the said Rogers house". (Order Book 1691-1713, p. 77). Corn and pork were involved in a suit for indebtedness Sessoms brought against Thomas Clark in the January, 1711 Court, where Sessoms was awarded 60 pounds and a quarter of pork and 70 pounds of Indian Corn. (Order Book 1691-1713, p. 387).

Due to his wealth, there is no doubt that Nicholas Sessoms enjoyed a high social status in Surry County. Moreover, the records show that he was a Church Warden in Lawne's Creek Parish. This was a high honor, since the parish had only two wardens who, with the minister, were responsible for collecting the parish taxes, caring for the poor, and for interpreting moral offenses and presenting them to the County Court. While not elected to public office, he apparently associated with the elected officials of the County. For example, he called Ethelred Taylor friend in his will and Sessoms' wife Katherine was one of the witness of the will of Mr. Taylor. (Order Book 1713-1718, p. 85) Taylor was sheriff of Surry County and his son Ethelred, Jr., was a member of the Virginia House of Burgess (Colonial Surry, Bodie, p. 169). He also was

closely associated with three other prominent Surry County families: the Smiths, the Blows and the Wynns. (A brief history of these families is included in Part Six)

Despite the fact that he was a Church Warden and had a position of influence in the County, the Court records indicate that Sessoms was involved in several lawsuits, both as a defendant and a plaintiff, concerning moral issues. Abstracts of the Court records of some of these suits are listed below:

**Source: Surry County, Virginia Order Book  
1671-1691**

p: 453. 7br.2d. 1684: "Nicholas Sessums bringing to this Court agt. Tho. Mather for severall abusive words he had spooken agt. the said Sessums & his wife, and the said Mather appearing in Court and acknowledgeing a wrighting under his hand whereby it appeares what he had spooken was false and that he was Sorry for it, with which the said Sessums being satisfied, with his Consent the accon. is dismist the said Mather paying costs als. Excn."

**Source: Surry County, Virginia Order Book  
1691-1713**

p: 20: "Judgment is granted Ni. Sessums against Thomas MATHARS for seven hundred & Eighty pds of tobo. being the ballance of a bond dated the 28th. of 8br. 1687, It is therefore Ordered that the said MATHARS (sic) pay the same with Costs als Exo."

p: 31: Mar 1691: "Nicho. Sessums and John Hold Churchwardens of Lawnes Creeke Pish haveing Caused Jno. Phillips to be sumoned to give security to save the said Pish harmless from any Charge should arise by reason of his Entertaining Roger Puliston & his wife in his house, and the said Phillip makeing it appeare he hath sent them out of the Pish, he is discharged from the sd. Sumons pay all Costs als. Exo."

p: 76: July 1693: "Nicho Sessums and Tho. Smith presenting themselves security for Tho. Floods payment of the Estate of Geo. Avery deced. to John Avery they are accepted and Ordered to give bond accordingly."

p: 77: July 1693: "Exit. Corp. Jnry. 1st. 93. Nicholas Sessums haveing brought his accon to this Court against Joseph Rogers set forth that the said Rogers in the moneth of June last in this County did most Maliciously falsely and Scandalously report publish & declare in the heareing of severall people that he burnt Wm. Cockerhams house thereby endeavouring what in him lyeth to ruine the petr. in his good name fame and reputation and to cause him to loose (sic) that good repute and Esteem he hath hither to alwaies had amongst all his Neighbours and others to his damage at least 10000 lbs of tobo. he therefore prayed Judgment against the said Rogers for the said tenn thousand pounds of tobo., with Costs & c. to which the said Rogers appeared & pleaded not Gilty (sic) and for tryal put himselfe upon his Country soe likewise the plt. who vizt: Mr. John Thompson, Mr. Wm. Pittman, Mr. Thomas Davis, Mr. Wm. Handcock, Mr. Jos. Seate, Mr. Cha. Savage, Mr. Wm. Goodman, Mr. Wm. Chambers, Mr. Tho. Jarrell, Mr. Edward Moreland, Mr. Henry Norton & Mr. Thomas Flood return for Virdt. we finde for the defdt. upon the defdts. Motion the Jurys Virdt. is Confirmed and a Nonsuite is granted him against the plt. It is therefore Ordered that the said Sessums pay damage according to Law with Costs als Exn."

p: 78: July 1693: "Ex:ed \_\_\_ Janry 1st. 93. Nicholas Sessums haveing brought his accon. to this Court against Will. Cockerham and Hannah his wife set forth that the said Hannah in the Moneth of June last in this County, did most Maliciously falsely and Scandalously report publish and declare in the heareing of severall people that he burnt her husbands house, thereby indeavouring what in he lyeth to Ruine him in his good Name fame and Reputation and to cuase him to loose that good repute and Esteeme he hath hitherto alwaies had among all his Neighbours & others to his damage at least tenn thousand pounds of tobo. he therefore prayed Judgment against the said Will Cockerham and Hannah his wife for the said tenn thousand pounds of tobo. with Costs &c. to which the defdts. appeared and pleaded not Gilty and for

tryal put themselves upon their County so likewise the plt. who vizt: (same jury as on p:77). Return for Virdt. we finde for the defdts upon the defdts. Motion the Jurys Virdict is Confirmed and A Nonsuite granted them against the plt. It is therefore Ordered that the said Sessums pay damage according to law with Costs als. Exo."

p: 110: Sept 1694: "Nicholas Sessums haveing caused Roger Squire to be arrested to this Court & set forth that notwithstanding his wife Catherine hath alwaies demeaned and behaved herselfe Civilly Orderly & Modestly & never was accounted a Whore nor ever gave the least occasion to be subjected, but hath lived in good name & reputation all her days, yet ye sd. Squire ye. defdt. hath made it his endeavour to take away her good Name fame & reputation & to cause her to be disesteemed & slighted & to Effect his Malicious Intentions had at divers places before several p:sons as he more P:ticularly did at the house of John Browne in Lawnes Creeke P:ish the beginning of August last before a great many people there mett on an Invitation utter publish & declare these Malicious falce & scandilous Words Vizt: that shee was a Whore & he would prove her a Whore & he would prove her a Whore & to make the same as publick as he could thereby to render her as Odious as possible very often said Kate (speaking to ye. plts. sd. wife) you are a Whore & I will prove you a Whore which was to his damage at least one hundred pds. Sterl. for which he prayed Judgment with Costs to which the Defdt. appeared & pleaded not Guilty a Jury was therefore sworne to try the same, who Vizt: Walter Flood, Tho. Warren, Tho. Drew, Jno. Browne, Robert Hart, Jos. Wall, Augt Hunicutt, Roger Potter, Edwd. Rowell, Robt. Lancaster & Cha. Savage returne for Virdt. we finde for the defdt. upon ye. defdts. motion the Jurys Virdt. is Confirmed and an Nonsuite granted him agt. the plt. It is therefore Ordered that the plt. pay damage according to Law with Costs als. exon."

p: 143: Xbr. 1695: "Joseph Rogers haveing caused Nicholas Sessums to be arrested to this Court set forth that the sd. Sessums did this Sumer to sundry people in many places more p:ticularly in Lawnes Creek P:ish in this County report that ye. sd. Rogers starved his

apprentices & Jorneymen feeding them with nothing but bull beefe & bores, & broath made of tripes & such likes & yt. by such & other his Wicked & falce scandilous & Malicious words diswaded severall Jorneymen shoemakers from workeing with him & several P:sons from bindeing their sons apprentices which was to his damage fifty pounds sterl. for which he prayed Judgment with Costs, to which ye defendt appeared & pleaded not guilty a Jury was therefore Impanelled to trye the same who vizt: Jer. Ellis, James Stanton, Wm. Chambers, Wm. Pettway Anthony Evans, Thomas Edwards, Wm. Newsom, Wm. Rose, David Andrews, John Browne, Tho. Collier & Saml. Alsobrooke returne for Virdt. wee finde for the defendt. upon the defendts. motion ye. Jurys Virdt. is Confirmed & a Nonsuite is granted him against the plaintiff. It is therefore ordered that the said Joseph Rogers pay damage according to Law with Costs Exon."

p: 144: Xbr. 1695: "Joseph Rogers haveing caused Nicholas Sessums to be arrested to this Court set forth that the said Sessums did at the house of Geo. Morell in Lawnes Creek P"ish in this County in June or July last on a Sabbath day most maliciously Scandelously & falcely report that ye. said Rogers was a hog-stealer & that he would prove it, that he was an old Rogue and that he would prove him one with many other Malicious falce and scandilous words which was to his damage fifty pounds Sterl. for which he prayed judgment with Costs to which ye. defendt. appeared & pleaded not guilty, A Jury was therefore Impanelled to try the same who Vizt: (same jury as p. 143). returne for virdt. wee finde for ye. plaintiff fifty pounds of tobo. upon the plantiffs motion the jurys verdict is Confirmed & said Sessums ordered to pay him the said fifty pounds of tobo. with Costs als. Exon."

p: 224: May 1702: "Nicholas Sessums and Sarah Backer (Barker?) being presented by the grand jury for Adultery Ordered that they bee sumoned to appeare at the next Court to answr. the same."

p: 233: Jan 1702: "Sarah Barker appeareing in Court and confessing herself guilty of adultery for wch. shee is now presented by the grandjury is fined according to Law.



"Nicholas Sessoms being presented by the grand jury for adultery but not sufficient proofs appearing agt. him hee is discharged payeing fees."

### Genealogical Information

The age of Nicholas Sessoms when he arrived in the Colony of Virginia in 1666 cannot be determined from existing records. However, since at his death in 1716, he had been in the Colony for 50 years, we can conclude that he lived approximately 70 years. Records show that he was married twice: first to Hannah then to Katherine.

Regarding Hannah, we find this:

"Hannah, wife of Nicholas Sessoms appearing in Court and relinquishing her right of dower in a parcel of land sold by her husband to George Holly. It is therefore admitted to Record" (Surry Co. Order Book 1671-1691, p. 453, 7Br. 2d 1684).

Although Hannah's last name is not shown in Surry County records, this deed proves that she was the daughter of Thomas Culmer: "Thomas Culmer, of Surry County, Churchgier for love and affections gives to his daughter Hannah, now wife of Robert Lane, and to Robert Lane, 300 acres of land at upper sunken marsh, Southwark Parish, formerly belonging to William Jennings (Cooper), and now belonging to Thomas Culmer. If daughter Hannah dies the land goes to said Robert Lane." (Book I 1652-1672, p. 198, 6 November 1662). Hannah is mentioned in a deed as wife of Robert Lane, dated 2 May 1666. (Book I, p. 276). Robert Lane appears on the Tithables (white) for the year 1668, but does not show up on any other Surry County records after this date. This implies that Robert Lane died sometime after 1668, thus making Hannah a widow. Several circumstances support the contention that Hannah Culmer Lane was the first wife of Nicholas Sessoms. It will be shown later that Nicholas Sessoms named a daughter Hannah and a son Thomas and son Thomas named one of his

sons Culmer. The court case below seems to remove any doubt concerning this assumption:

"Eliza Lane having been delivered of two mulatto bastard children which she confesseth were begotten by Nicholas Sessoms' Negro man, it is ordered that the sheriff during the setting of this court (January, 1690) give her ten lashes on her bare back well layed on and at the next court he give her ten lashes more." (**Order Book 1671-1691, p. 77**). As this indicates, Eliza Lane was living in the household of Nicholas Sessoms and most probably was the daughter of Nicholas' first wife Hannah Culmer Lane.

Besides Thomas, only two other Culmers were found in Virginia records. Hotten's **Original List of Persons of Quality, page 41** lists a James Culmer (age 22) and a Mathew Culmer as transported to the Isle of Wight County in 1664. (**Nugent, Vol. I, p. 433**).

Thomas Culmer first appears on the deed books of Surry County in 1653 (**Book 1, p. 33**) and continues to be shown in Surry County records until 1662. No further account is given of him in Virginia or North Carolina.

Nicholas' second wife **Katherine** is first mentioned in the suit brought against Joseph Rogers in the July, 1693 Surry County Court. She is listed again as the wife of Nicholas Sessoms when she relinquished her rights to dower of a piece of land Nicholas gave to his daughter Ann Williams (**Order Book 1691-1713, p. 254, May, 1704**) and she is named as wife in Nicholas' will (see later). Research failed to reveal Katherine's last name.

Nicholas Sessoms died between the time that his will was made on 8 October 1715, and when it was probated on 21 October 1716 (**Book 7, p 33**). This will follows:

"SESSOMS, Nicholas: Leg.- To wife, Katherine, for life, the Plantation I live on - 300 acres - at her decease to my daughter, Hannah Black, and for want of issue, to granddaughter, Mary Black. To granddaughter Hannah Black, doz. spoons, trunk, household goods, an Indian girl, etc.; if she die or marry before of age, to go to my granddaughter, Mary Black. To daughter, Ann Williams, two barrels of pork. To daughter, Mary Black, a negro called "Isle of Wight" etc. To son-in-law, William Williams, after my wife's decease one negro. To grandson, William Willimas my land at, or near, Marshapingo. To grandson, John Black, land on the south side of Bridge Swamp, if no heirs to granddaughter, Mary Black. To granddaughter, Katherine Williams my Plantation on Pegion Swamp, 200 acres, if no issue to my granddaughter, Mary Williams. To son-in-law William Black, all my leather. To two sons-in-law, William Williams and Wm. Black, all my wearing clothes to be equally divided. To friend, Ethelred Taylor, five pounds. To wife, Katherine and two sons-in-law all the rest of est. to be equally divided. Desires granddaughters to be well educated by Ethelred Taylor, Hannah and Mary Black, and take over the Plantation after my death. He to be overseer of will, with two sons-in-law. Made: 8 Oct., 1715. Prob.: 21 Oct., 1716. Wit: Samuel Cook, John High, Mary Evans. Book 7, p. 33.

### Children

As the above will indicates, Nicholas had two daughters, Hannah who married William Black, and Ann who married William Williams. He also had one son, Thomas, who will be discussed separately in the next chapter.

I. **Hannah Black** is obviously the daughter of Nicholas' first wife Hannah Culmer. Hannah or William Black are not mentioned in Surry County Records through 1750, nor are they listed in the files of Chowan or Bertie Counties in North Carolina, where the other Sessoms settled. However, records suggest that William

Black died and Hannah married John Mitchell. This assumption is based on the fact that Hannah is mentioned as the wife of John Mitchell in a Bertie County deed dated 7 September 1724, between John Mitchell and Dennis McLendon. Also, the Chowan County deed books show that John Mitchell bought 100 acres from Nicholas Sessoms Jr. (son of Thomas), joining George Winns, Black Haw branch and Wickaneuse Creek commonly called Bear Swamp. (**Chowan County, N.C. Book B #1, p. 16**). This deed places John Mitchell in the same location where the Sessoms, James Boon and George Wynn settled when they left Surry County (see later). Hannah is shown as the Executrix of the Estate of John Mitchell in the Bertie County, North Carolina Court of Common Pleas of the 2nd Tuesday, 1739. (**Book I, p. 275**); and in the May Court of 1740, John Mitchell's estate was divided between the widow and seven orphans (**Book II, p. 283**); and in the November Court of 1740, the division of the Estate of Mitchell was returned by Benjamin Warren, John Perry and Nicholas Sessoms (**Book II, p. 305**). No further research of Hannah was made by this compiler.

II. **Ann Williams** - wife of William Williams, is not mentioned in Surry County records through 1750. However, William Williams is mentioned several times, including his will which is quoted below:

"WILLIAMS, William: Leg.-To son, Lewis Williams, 40 acres adjoining his own land up Wet Slash to Green Swamp. To daughter, Hester, my Plantation where I live with one-half the remaining part of land and one negro. So, William, to have the use of the other part of the land for seven years then to my daughter, Lidia. Gives daughter Lidia, into the care of Wm. Newsum's wife until of age, or married and teach her to read the Catechism. To daughters, Anne, Katherine, Mary, Hannah, Unity, and Faith, each five shillings. Sons John and William five shillings each. Mentions five children, Lewis, Wm., Eliza, Lidia, and Hester. Friend, Wm. Edwards and son, Lewis Williams, Exers. Made: 17 Nov., 1740. Prob.: 16 April, 1741. Wit: Wm. Edwards, John Johnson. Book 9, p. 294."

Apparently Ann Sessoms Williams had died prior to the above will since she is not mentioned. No further research was made of Ann Williams by this compiler.

III. THOMAS - Although not mentioned in the will of Nicholas Sessoms, since he died prior to that date, he had one son, Thomas, who will be discussed in the next part.

## Part Three

### THOMAS SESSOMS

Thomas Sessoms first appears on the 1693 Tithables List for Lawnes Creek Parish living in the household of his father, Nicholas Sessoms. (Mag. of Va. Gen., Vol. 23, No. 4, p. 65). He is next shown as living in a separate household on the Tithables List for 1697, adjoining the land of his father and that of his brother-in-law William Williams. (Mag. of Va. Gen. Vol. 24, No. 2, p. 72). In the 1698 Tithables List, he is shown in the same location. (Mag. of Va. Gen. Vol. 24, No. 2, p. 72). Thomas appears on the 1701 Tithables List, but is listed next to William Blake (It is to be noted that William Blake, along with William Williams was an executor of the will of Nicholas Sessoms, however no relationship has been established. It is also interesting to note that George Winn, a long time associate of the Sessoms family as it will be shown later, is shown as living in the household of William Williams). (Mag. of Va. Gen. Vol. 24, No. 3, p. 71). Thomas continues to appear on the Tithables List for Lawnes Creek Parish through 1703 with no change except that on the 1703 list, a Goodchile is shown as living in his household. Tithables Lists are not available for Surry County, Virginia after 1704.

When Thomas Sessoms was born, when he married, the birthdate of his children, nor the exact date of his death are not recorded because the records of Lawnes Creek Parish, where this information would be available, is extent. However, from existing records we can deduct most of this information.

Considering that he was at least 16 years old when he first appeared on the 1693 Tithables List as living in the household of his father (only males 16 years or older were listed), he would have been born around 1677 then Nicholas was married to his first wife, Hannah.

He was probably married near the time he was listed on the 1697 census as living in a seaprate household. We know that he was married by 1700, for we find this: "Elizabeth Sessoms, wife of Thomas Sessoms, appearing in court and relinquishing her right of dower of, in and to a parcel of land sold by her husband to Nathaniel Harris on it is omitted to record." (Surry County Order Book 1691-1713, p. 210).

The Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Sessoms, declared in the above deed was Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Richard Smith, long time associate of Nicholas Sessoms. This relationship is confirmed in the Smith Family History in the Virginia State Library, Richmond. According to researcher Doris V. Stone in a letter to this compiler, this history states that Thomas Sessoms

married Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Richard Smith and his first wife Margaret (Blow) Smith. This history also shows that Thomas and Elizabeth moved to Chowan County, North Carolina, and after the death of Thomas, Elizabeth married James Boon.

The records abstracted below give proof of these relationships:

In a deed dated 8 February 1729, Nicholas Smith conveys 100 acres of land "for good will and affection" to his nephew Richard Sessoms. This deed is witnessed by Samuel Sessoms and others. **(Bertie Co., N.C. Deed Book C, p. 129)**. It is to be noted that Nicholas Smith was named as son in the will of his father Richard Smith and Richard Smith and Elizabeth Boon were given a cow.

SMITH, Richard: Leg.- To wife, Mary Smith, my whole est. and make her Exerx. To Elizabeth Boun and Richard Sessoms each a cow. To son, Richard Smith, the Plantation I live on at my wife's decease. To sons, Thomas Smith and Nicholas Smith, the land where Thomas Smith now lives. The rest of est. to wife, Mary. Wit: Will. Davidson, Robert Booth. Made: 24 Feb., 1712. Prob: 20 May, 1713. Bk. 6, p. 144.

Records of a court held for the Precinct of Chowan (N.C.) at the house of William Branch the 3rd Tuesday in April A.D. 1711 states this: "Elizabeth Sessoms (spelled Sessions) prays letter of administrations of goods and credit of Thomas Sessoms. Granted as prayed." **(Chowan, N.C. Deed Book A, #1, p. 107-109)**.

Elizabeth is named as wife of James Boon in several Chowan County deeds. For example: "James Boon of Chowan Precinct and Elizabeth, his wife, to Richard



Barefield (residence not given), 31 March 1718, 20 pounds sterling, 250 acres more or less on Chowan River, adjoining Peter Evans, the main road, Gum branch and the river. We bind ourselves in the full sum of 50 pounds sterling. Reg. 18 April 1718". (Deed Book B, #1, Chowan County, N.C.).

From the above, we can conclude that Thomas Sessoms is without doubt the son of Nicholas Sessoms, that he was born ca. 1677, that his mother was Hannah Culmer Lane Sessoms, that his wife was Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Richard Smith and Richard's first wife Margaret (Blow) Smith, that he and Elizabeth moved to Chowan County, N.C. sometime before 1711, he died before 1711, and after his death Elizabeth married James Boon.

### Background

Where Thomas and Elizabeth Sessoms settled in Chowan Precinct, North Carolina when they moved from Surry County, Virginia is not shown in the records. However, it was most certainly on Weecaunse Creek, for we find this: "James Boon of Chowan Precinct to Nicholas Sessoms of ye same precinct, 13 October 1718, 40 pounds sterling, 400 acres more or less joining James Boon, etc. (Deed Book # , Chowan Co., N.C., p.

187) Then this: "James Boon of Chowan Precinct to Nicholas of ye same precinct, 13 October 1718, 100 pound sterling 575 acres at mouth of Bear Swamp, joining George Winn and ye Branch, etc." (Deed Book W, #1, p. 388) (The mention of George Winn is important since George Winn is located on the map, page 27a, showing his land as being on Weecaunse Creek).

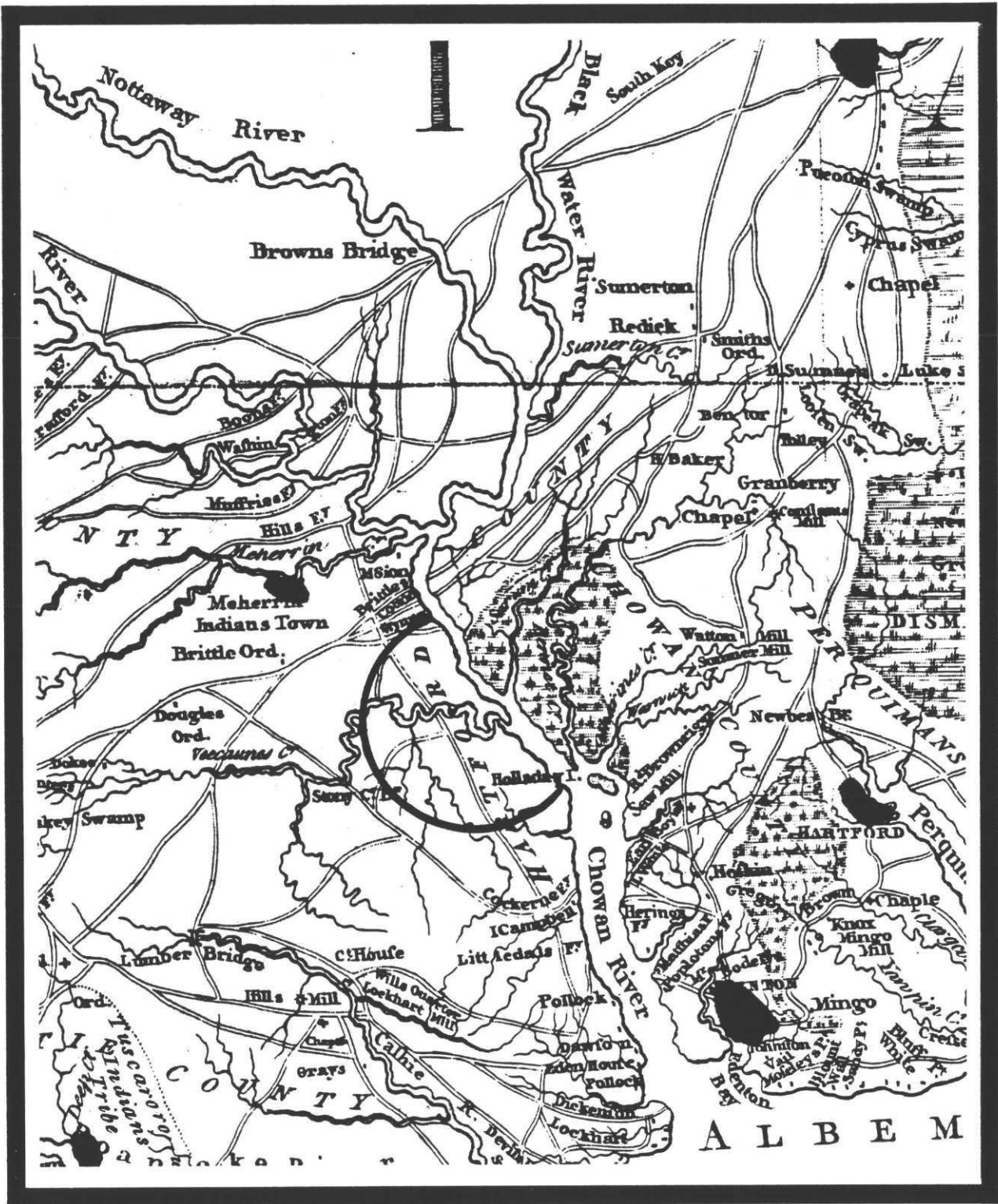
We also find that in a deed dated 9 July 1722, George Winn, Chowan Precinct and Rose, his wife, sell 200 acres of land to John Mitchell, joining, among others, Thomas Sessoms, Jr. and Bear Swamp. As these deeds indicate, James Boon (who married Elizabeth Smith Sessoms), Nicholas Sessoms and Thomas Sessoms, Jr. were living on adjoining lands on Bear Swamp near George Winn. On the map, page 27b, please note that Weecaunse Creek is a subsidiary of the Chowan River, and that the Chowan River is formed from the Black Water River and Nottoway River in Virginia and changes names at the Virginia/North Carolina line.

Based on the above, it is the contention of this compiler that Thomas and Elizabeth Sessoms moved down the Black Water River where they were living in Virginia to Chowan County, North Carolina, some time before the death of Thomass, circa 1711, settled near George Winn and when Thomas died, Elizabeth then married James Boon.

(Bertie County was formed from Chowan County in 1722, and the land owned by James Boon, George Winn,



Map of Bertie Precinct and the location of Sessoms' land near George Wynn.



Map showing the migration route of the Sessoms from Virginia to North Carolina.

John Mitchell, and the Sessoms fell within the new County of Bertie.

The Bertie County records from 1720 through 1757, show that in addition to Nicholas and Thomas, other Sessoms were living in Bertie County. These were Thomas Jr., Richard, John, Samuel, Culmer and Walter. Also William and Hannah Williams' sons must have moved from Surry County to Chowan County, North Carolina about this time, because deeds now find them living near the Sessoms, John Mitchell, George Winn and James Boon.

It is evident from the above Thomas and Elizabeth Sessoms and their children were the vanguard of an exodus of their friends and kin from Virginia to North Carolina.

#### **Children**

Although he left no will and the records of Lawnes Creek Parish were destroyed, from existing records, the children of Thomas and Elizabeth have been identified as follows: **Thomas, Nicholas, Richard, Culmer and Samuel.**

Each of these children will be discussed separately in Part Four, next.

Part Four

THE CHILDREN OF  
THOMAS AND ELIZABETH SMITH SESSOMS

The children of Thomas and Elizabeth Smith Sessoms are discussed in the Sections which follow, as indicated below:

Section I. Thomas

Section II. Nicholas

Section III. Richard

Section IV. Culmer

Section V. Samuel

## Section I

### THOMAS SESSOMS, JR.

Thomas Sessoms Jr. is very possibly the oldest son for according to established tradition at the time, the first son was named after the father. Moreover, Thomas is the only son appearing on the Surry County records after the death of Thomas Sr., ca. 1711.

In November, 1716, Thomas Sessoms was paid 300 pounds silver for three wolves' heads (**Surry County, Virginia Order Book 1713-1718, p. 96**) and on 21 December 1726, Thomas Sessoms signed the estate settlement of Robert Mitchell (**Will Book 7, p. 670**). A Thomas Sessoms was appointed overseer of the will of Edward Parkam and to have son, Edward Parkam, "until he is 21 years old, to use his estate, etc., and take care of the rest of my children". (**Will Book #7, no page number, Made 12 March 1709, Probated 5 July, 1709**) Since this estate was not settled in court until July, 1710, this was most likely Thomas Jr., not Thomas Sr.

Apparently Thomas started buying land in Chowan County, North Carolina when he still lived in Virginia, because in a deed between George Winn and John Mitchell, dated 20 March 1722, Thomas Sessoms is shown as an adjoining landowner on Bear Swamp (**Deed Book C, #1, Chowan Co., N.C., p. 330**) (When Thomas acquired this land is not recorded).

When Bertie County was formed from Chowan in 1722, Thomas' land fell in that county, for in a deed between John Mitchell and wife Hannah, Thomas is listed as owning adjoining land on Bear Swamp. (Deed Book B, p. 31). This deed was signed by John Williams, who is listed as son in the will of William Williams who married Ann Sessoms, daughter of Nicholas Sessoms.

On 7 December 1754, Thomas witnessed a deed between Joseph Hall and Benjamin Winn (Wynn) (Deed Book H, p. 175) and in a deed dated 22 July 1755, Thomas is shown owning land on Weecaunse Creek, which is the same land, because Bear Swamp is on Weecaunse Creek.

Thomas is not shown in the Bertie County Court minutes from 1724 through 1762. However, he is shown on the books of Edgecombe County, which was formed from Bertie County in 1741. The names of Thomas' wife and his children are not shown.

#### NOTE

There are a Walter and a John Sessoms listed on the early Bertie County records, who could have been the sons of either Thomas, Jr. or Thomas, Sr.

1. A Walter Sessoms witnessed a deed in Bertie County in 1749 (Deed Book 6, p. 212). He also



appears on the 1755 Tax List as living in Beaufort County, which is bound by Edgecombe County. Then he is shown on the 1762 and 1764 Tax Lists as living in Pitt County which was formed from Beaufort in 1760.

2. A John Sessoms is also shown witnessing a deed in Bertie County on 9 February 1729 (Deed Book C, p. 197). He is mentioned in two deeds dated in January 1736 as buying land adjoining Robert Anderson (Deed Book E, p. 68 and p. 113). A John Sessoms is listed on the Pitt County Tax List for 1764 with Walter.

## Section II

### NICHOLAS SESSOMS

Nicholas Sessoms is possibly the second son of Thomas and Elizabeth Smith Sessoms, because according to Colonial tradition, the second son was named after the father of the husband.

Nicholas is first shown on the records of Chowan County, North Carolina when he buys 400 acres of land from his father-in-law, James Boon in 1718. This land adjoins James Boon and Long Branch (**Chowan Co. Deed Book W, 1, p. 387, 13 October 1718**); and on the same date he buys another 575 acres from Boon "at the north of Bear Swamp, joining George Winn and ye branch" (**Deed Book W, 1, p. 388**).

In 1718, Nicholas sells 100 acres of this land to John Mitchell, who is most likely his brother-in-law. (**Deed Book B, 1, p. 615**). In 1719, he sells 80 acres to John Williams, son of William Williams who married Ann Sessoms; and in the same year he sells 100 acres to James Boon. (**Deed Book B, p. 618 and p. 627**).

(When Bertie County was formed from Chowan County in 1722, Nicholas' land, along with the other Sessoms, John Williams, John Mitchell and George Winn, fell within the new county.)

Bertie County records indicate that Nicholas and his wife Elizabeth sold 80 acres to James Page adjoining John Williams (Bertie Co., Deed Book A, p. 147). In 1724, he witnessed a deed between Jacob Lewis and John Marnier (Deed Book A, p. 255) and another deed between John Sweeney and Captain John Van Pelt (Deed Book D, p. 19). Bertie County records further reveal that Nicholas was granted 420 acres of land by patent dated 1 February 1725, (Deed Book F, p. 350).

So, by 1725, Nicholas was a large landowner. He was also active in county affairs. The Bertie County Court minutes from 1724 through 1739, lists Nicholas four times: Acknowledging deeds, laying off roads, and as overseer of juries.

In the Court minutes for 1740 through 1762, he is mentioned another four times to include the settlement of the estate of John Mitchell, his widow and seven orphans.

In a Court held on 9 September 1742, at the house of Ino Cullins near Red Bend, the records state that "Nicholas Sessums proved his rights to wit: Nicholas Sessums, Elizabeth Sessums, Samuel Sizemore, Elizabeth Sessums, Ivy Rachel Sessums, Luranna Sessums, Nicholas Sessums Jr., William Sessums, Anna Sessums, Sarah Sessums, Grace Sessums, white persons."

As his will shows, these are Nicholas' wife and

children. (Although Samuel Sizemore was shown several times in deeds and other documents with the Sessoms, his relationship was not determined by the compiler.)

In 1744, Edgecombe County was formed from Bertie County and Nicholas was living in that part of Bertie which included the new county. There are several Edgecombe County land transactions between Nicholas and other parties from 1745 through 1753, including this one which names his wife Elizabeth and shows the location of his land: "Nicholas Sessoms and his wife Elizabeth to Samuel Sizemore of Edgecombe County, 20 February 1753, 5 pounds sterling of Great Britain, 140 acres on E. side of Coneto Swamp, Witnesses among others, William Sessoms and Nicholas Sessoms Jr.

The last name of Nicholas' wife Elizabeth has not been identified.

Nicholas Sessoms died between the time his will was made on May 22, 1764, and when it was probated in the October, 1764 Court. This will, which names his wife Elizabeth and his children is quoted below:

"**SESSUMS, Nicholas** - May 28, 1764. Oct. Ct., 1764. Wife: ELIZABETH SESSUMS, use of my whole estate her lifetime; son: THOMAS SESSUMS, furniture, my wearing clothes, 1/2 my still, 1/2 my orchard, horse, and mare for use on plantation; daus: ELIZABETH DUFFIELD, RACHEL PARKER, LURANA DUNN, ANN DUNN, SARAH MARLEY, 5 S each; sons: WILLIAM SESSOMS, 100 A of land joining SIZEMORE'S line in Contenea in Edgecombe Co; NICHOLAS SESSUMS, whole of my estate after my wife's decease to take care of his younger bro.

THOMAS SESSUMS during his life; 1/2 my still and orchard; shall help maintain my wife. Exr: NICHOLAS SESSUMS. Wit: JOHN SKINNER, BENJAMIN FAIRCLOTH."

(Note: Grace Mears was omitted as a daughter of Nicholas is this abstract. No reference to her could be found by this compiler.)

### Children

A. **Ann Dunn** - was the wife of John Dunn as indicated in his will:

"DUNN, John - Jan 26, 1793. Aug. Ct., 1793. Wife & Extx: ANN, plantation whereon I live during widowhood, all stock, during years of raising and maintaining my children, also negroes; dau: MILLY CARR, 5S; dau: LURANEY DUNN, 1 heifer; dau: MARY STRICKLAND, 5 S; son: JACOB, 5S; son & exr: NICHOLAS, 1 cow and my cabinet of joyner Tools; son: STEPHEN, 110 A of land, with plantation where he now lives, etc; gr.dau:NANCY DUNN, 1 cow; son: PHILLIP, 1 cow and 1 filly; dau: SEALY DUNN, heifer; son & excr: LAMON DUNN, 130 A on Great Branch, joining the old line and STEPHEN'S lines, and 1/2 my estate after my debts are paid and decease of my wife; son:JONUS DUNN, 240 A plantation where I live, at 19 years of age and other 1/2 my estate I have not given away, and negroes. Executors sell barrel apple brandy and 3 barrels sider to pay lawful debts. Exr: WILLIAM BLOODWORTH. Wit: HARDY SCARBOROUGH RICHARD CLARK, ABSOLOM GARDENER."

Ann also left a will:

"DUNN, Ann - Aug. 24, 1809. Nov. Ct., 1809. Bk. D. p. 351.Gr. son: JOSHUA DUNN, son or LAMON DUNN, 1 feather bed on which I lie; gr. son: ANSON DUNN, son of NICHOLAS DUNN, 1 cow and yearling; dau: LURANEY DUNN, 1 small iron pot; dau: SELAH DUNN, my hunting saddle. Exr: LAMON DUNN. Wit: DEMPSEY JENKINS, JOHN WILKINSON."

It is to be noted that Luranna who is listed as daughter in Nicholas' will, is also listed as a

daughter in the wills of Ann and John Dunn. This could mean that she is Nicholas' granddaughter rather than his daughter.

B. **Elizabeth Duffield** - is not shown in the records of Edgecombe County through 1764. However, a Thomas Duffield witnessed two deeds of Nicholas and Elizabeth Sessoms in 1754 (**Deed Book 2, pp. 8 and 9**) and one for John Dunn in 1754 (**Deed Book 2, p. 88**).

Duffield is listed three times in the Edgecombe County Court minutes for the years 1744 through 1762, but he is not listed in the minutes for the years 1763 through 1774. Because of his close connection with the Sessoms and since there is no other Duffield in Edgecombe County, it can be safely concluded that Thomas Duffield is the husband of Elizabeth Sessoms.

C. **Rachel Parker** - is shown only once on Edgecombe County records where she and Thomas Parker Jr. (of New Hanover County) sold land in Edgecombe County in 1752 (**Deed Book 3, p. 339**).

A Thomas Parker left a will in New Hanover County in 1782, naming Jacob. A Jacob Parker and a Nicholas Parker are found in Edgecombe County, along with several other Parkers. A Sessoms Parker is listed as buying a marriage license in Sampson County in 1789. (Part of New Hanover was annexed to Duplin in 1751, and Sampson was formed from Duplin in 1784).

D. **Sara Marley** - is not listed in the records of Edgecombe County through 1774, nor in the wills of 1733 through 1856, except in the will of her father. There are two Marley wills in the County. Ann Marley in 1799 names son Boling; and Nathan names wife Rachel and sons Benjamin, William, Nathan, Henry, James, John and Abraham. Sara's husband could have been any of these except Benjamin, who married the daughter of Lazarus Drake as named in his 1774 will.

E. **Grace Mears** - No record.

F. **Thomas Sessoms** - was named a lunatic in an Edgecombe County Court held in September, 1759, and is not shown on the County records except in the will of his father. (The Thomas Sessoms mentioned several times in the records is the son of Samuel Sessoms discussed later.)

G. **William Sessoms** - is listed in the deed books of Edgecombe County in 1754, when he witnessed a deed between his father and mother and Samuel Sizemore (Deed Book 2, p. 8 and 9). He also witnessed a deed between his brother Nicholas Jr. and wife Ann, and Isaac Anderson (Deed Book 2, p. 185). He is shown buying 150 acres of land from Charles Kimbell in 1744 (Deed Book 5, p. 308). This deed of sale was

registered in the November, 1744 Court.

In the May, 1745 Court, Elijah McCoy is ordered to live with William Sessoms until the next Court (**Book I, pp. 22 and 33**). The Court records for October, 1765, register a deed of sale from William to James Hodge (**Book II, p. 109**).

Richard Sessoms of Duplin County, sells land to William in 1765. Another transaction shows William as late as 1770 in Edgecombe County, and William is shown selling land to Skell in 1771 (**Deed Book W, p. 404**).

William left no will or estate settlement therefore his wife's last name nor the names of his children could be identified by the compiler.

H. Nicholas Sessoms Jr. - is shown witnessing the deeds of his father and mother when they sell land to Samuel Sizemore in 1755 (above cited). A deed between Nicholas Sessoms and Ann, his wife, to Isaac Anderson of Edgecombe County, 20 January 1755, states: "100 acres on the south side of the Cahudey Swamp, all houses, buildings, etc., and is lower part of tract for 200 acres conveyed to John Benbow by Benjamin Foremon, Jr., 24 August 1730, and by the sd. Benbow conveyed to his daughter Ann Benbow now wife of said Nicholas. (**Book 2, p. 185**). From this we know that the wife of



Nicholas Jr., was Ann Benbow and her father was John Benbow.

There are many other land transactions between Nicholas Sessoms and various parties, but the records do not state if it is Nicholas Sr. or Nicholas Jr.

In the minute books for the Edgecombe County Courts from 1745 to 1762, Nicholas Jr. is listed twice, being ordered to work on or oversee the working of roads. The minute books of Courts for 1763 through 1774, list Nicholas 17 times for such things as jury duty, approving land transactions, registering deeds of sale and the like.

Nicholas Jr. left no will in Edgecombe County and his children are not listed on any document. However, according to Ms. Wanda Wirth of Fayetteville, North Carolina, Nicholas Jr. had a son Solomon Sessoms who served in the American Revolution. While the relationship between Nicholas Jr. and Solomon has not been confirmed by this compiler, Solomon's service in the Revolutionary War has been proved.

**Solomon Sessoms** - (It should be noted that this Solomon Sessoms is often confused with the Solomon Sessoms of Edgecombe County, who is the son of Richard, and will be discussed in Section III, next.) Solomon was born October 12, 1746 in Edgecombe County, married Obedience Baker in Sampson County, North Carolina on

January 27, 1780, and died in Sampson County, North Carolina on August 16, 1832. (See DAR application National No. 513244).

According to this DAR application, Solomon served in the American Revolution as a Private and Lieutenant and also provided material to the Continental Army. This information is confirmed by Revolutionary War Pension Application No. 19330, and **Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution, p. 584**, which states on Line 1351: "Sessoms, Solomon, dec'd Privt. & Lieten." Solomon is also mentioned in the Pension Application of Daniel Merritt as serving under Lt. Solomon Sessoms (**NCGST - Vol. XIV No. 3, p. 175**). Merritt also states that he was from Sampson County.

Solomon appears on the deed books of Duplin and Sampson Counties several times including this division of land: "Solomon Sessoms to: Blake Sessoms, Solomon Sessoms, Nicholas Sessoms, Lemon Sessoms, Elizabeth Hall, Mary Ann Sessoms and Grey Sessoms" (**Sampson County Will Book 1, pp. 137 & 138, Probated 1832**).

In addition, the following children, along with their birth dates, were listed in the above cited DAR application:

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Sussanah Sessoms | - October 17, 1780   |
| Blake Sessoms    | - November 27, 1782* |
| John Sessoms     | - February 28, 1785* |

Isaac Sessoms - August 9, 1787\*  
Elizabeth Sessoms - September 27, 1789  
Solomon Sessoms - January 14, 1792\*  
Nicholas Sessoms - October 12, 1794\*  
Lemuel Sessoms - September 12, 1797  
Owen Sessoms - April 22, 1800\*  
Grey Sessoms - May 5, 1802\*  
Mary Ann Sessoms - September 25, 1804\*

\* These children of Solomon are included on the 1850 Sampson County Census, copies of which can be obtained from the North Carolina State Archives, 109 E. James St., Raleigh, North Carolina 27611. The 1850 Census lists the names of children living in the household at the time.

Wanda Wirth provides this additional information for Blake and Solomon:

Blake Sessoms - born 1782 (Ms. Wirth says 1790) married Rachel, died 1841 and had (1) Irvin Sessoms, who married Sarah Jane Fisher, (2) Giles, (3) Miles, (4) John Nelson, (5) Elizabeth, (6) Polly Hannah, and (7) Mary.

W. Solomon Sessoms - born 24 July 1824, married Sally Sessoms, served in Company H, North Carolina Arty (CSA) as a lieutenant, died 7 April 1905, and had (1) George, (2) Frank, (3) Sarah, (4) Jane, (5) Nancy, (6) Quessie and (7) C.B., was born 17 April 1856, married Marthan Ann Peterson and died 1 April 1932.

(For the war record of solomon Sessoms, see **North Carolina Troops, 1769-1865, Vol. I, p. 487** and pension application filed in North Carolina Archives). (Who his parents were is unknown).

### Section III

#### RICHARD SESSOMS

There is no doubt that Richard is the son of Thomas and Elizabeth since he was called nephew in the deed of Nicholas Smith (before cited), who was a brother of Elizabeth Smith Sessoms Boon and the son of Richard Smith. Richard was most likely the third son of Thomas and Elizabeth because, according to tradition, the third son was named after the father of the wife.

Richard is not shown on Surry County, Virginia records, but is mentioned in the 1712 will of Richard Smith, where he is given a cow. A Richard Sesshons witnessed a deed in Chowan County in 1711, which may or may not be the same Richard, given the fact that he does not appear on Chowan County records through 1723.

Starting with the 1729 deed cited above where he is given 100 acres of land by his uncle, Nicholas Smith, Richard is shown as living in Bertie County until Edgecombe Precent was formed from Bertie in 1732. However, since the above deed states, "for love and affection, tract whereon Richard now lives", indicates that Richard was in Bertie Precent prior to 1729. (Bertie was formed from Chowan in 1722.) He is listed

in the Bertie County Court minutes for the period 1724 - 1762, only once, where he records a deed of sale from John Steward in 1732.

Starting in 1732, when Edgecombe Precent was formed from Bertie, until his will was probated in 1769, Richard appears on the deed books and Court minutes many times. Only two of the deeds are listed here since they show the location of his land and the name of his wife:

**Patent Book 8, Page 58, November 17, 1738** states: "Crown to Richard Sessoms 640 acres in Edgecombe County, going above a branch of Fishing Creek and on the meanders of Fishing Creek."

Richard also owned land on the south side of the Tar River as evidenced by this deed, which also names his wife: **(Deed Book 4, p. 211)** "Richard Sessoms and wife Sarah, of Edgecombe County to George Stevenson, June 28, 1752, 50 pounds current money of Virginia 100 acres...on south side of Tar River, joining Maple Swamp. (According to the DAR application of Elizabeth Foster Smith - National Number 332388, December, 1941 -- Richard's wife was Sarah Bryan.)

Richard Sessoms left the following will and inventory:

**"SESSUMS, Richard** - Apr. 22, 1769. May Ct., 1769. Bk. E, p. 173. Wife & Extx: SARAH use of

5 negroes her lifetime and horse; dau (illegible) HART, 5 S; son: JACOB SESSUMS, land lying on Coneto Swamp, I purchased of THOMAS WILLS, known as BRYANT Islands; 3 negroes, cattle, stock, 1/2 my great still containing about 75 gals; son & exr: ISAAC SESSUMS, all remaining land and tenaments on N side of Maple Swamp; Grist mill and all my land on S side of said Swamp, negroes Benborough, Simon and George, negro girl, Nell, after wife's decease. She to have remainder of my great still, Blacksmith's tools, bed and furniture, 15 head cattle; dau: PATIENCE COFEL (COFFIELD ?), 2 negro girls, furniture, 4 head cattle; son: SOLOMON SESSUMS, 360 A land on N side of Tar River bought of ROBERT CLARY; 2 negro boys, 1 girl & her increase after decease of my wife SARAH; L 50 Va. money; horse Dolphin, bed, furniture, stock. Wit: MICAJAH LITTLE, SARAH BRYAN."

"SESSUMS, Richard - inventory taken by Isaac Sessums, no date, Aug. Ct. 1769. Division of estate among Jacob Sessums, Solomon Sessums, Isaac Sessums, Grissum Coffield, and Sarah Sessums, by order of Aug. Ct. 1769 and division made on Nov. 3rd, May Ct. 1770. Additional inventory taken by Isaac Sessums, exr., Aug. 29, 1770, Nov Ct 1770, and again Feb. 26, 1773, Feb. Ct. 1773. Additional inventory taken by the exr. no date, Aug. Ct. 1779."

### Children

(The daughters were not researched because of insufficient information).

A. **Jacob Sessoms** - was born circa 1752, married first Elizabeth Newsome, daughter of Joseph Newsome in 1769 (**Deed Book 12, pp. 25 & 28**) and second Francis \_\_\_\_\_, and died before April 6, 1792, when his will was probated. (See later). According to DAR application National Number 332388, Jacob was a patriot, providing service to the American Revolution.

He was a large land owner and active in County affairs as evidenced by the Edgcombe County deed books and Court minutes. He left the following will and inventory:

"SESSUMS, Jacob - Apr. 6, 1792. May Ct., 1792. Wife: FRANCES, lend use of 2 negroes, a horse named Fly, furniture, 3 cows, calves, stock, 10 head sheep; dwelling, land where I now live, bought of JOHN NORWOOD; son & Exr: ALEX SESSUMS' land bought of WILLIAMS NELMS; daus: ALICE and REBECCA SESSUMS, 2 negroes, furniture, and L 20 each; POLLY and ELIZABETH SESSUMS, 2 negroes and furniture, each; sons: ROBERT SESSUMS, land I bought of ELISHA RHODES in fork of Moore's Swamp and Maple Swamp, joining tract I bought of DAVID WYAT; 1 negro, bed and furniture; JACOB SESSUMS' tract of land I bought of WILLIAM BYRD; tract I bought of RICHARD SHIP, dwelling house, manor plantation where I now live. Exr: bro. SOLOMON SESSUMS. Wit: ARCHD DANCY, EDWIN DANCY, THOMAS TERRY."

"SESSUMS, Jacob - inventory taken by Solomon Sessums and Alex.Sessums, exrs, included several notes due estate, no date, Aug. Ct. 1792. Accounts of sales held Jan. 10, Feb. 1, and Oct. 19, 1793, Aug. Ct. 1793. Account current with Alexander Sessums, exr, Aug. Ct 1795. Additional account current with Alexander Sessums, Feb. Ct. 1796. Division of money arising from the estate among the legatees, namely, Alex. Sessums, Jesse Haynie, Alice Sessums, Rebekah Sessums, Polly Sessums, Robert Sessums, Jacob Sessums, and Elizabeth Sessums, May 28, 1796, May Ct. 1796."

#### Children

The above cited DAR application lists the following children, with dates of birth as indicated:

1. Alexander Sessoms - May 27, 1770
2. Alice Sessoms - December 1, 1771



3. Rebekah Sessoms - March 3, 1773
4. Polly Sessoms - October 11, 1774
5. Elizabeth Sessoms - March 9, 1776
6. Jacob Sessoms - March 25, 1789
7. Robert Sessoms - December 25, 1778

Additional information regarding sons Alexander, Robert and Jacob follows:

(Alexander Sessoms - Family record was copied from Blake T. Sessoms' family Bible by Bertha Sessoms Boyson in January, 1944, and donated to the North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, by Irvin B. Mann, Shreveport, Louisiana, in April, 1984.)

Alexander Sessoms (1. above) was born 27 May 1770, married Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_ and died 5 July 1834 and had: (1) Blunt N., born 21 February 1797, (2) Richard H., born 12 January 1799, (3) Blake T., born 23 January 1803, married Lucinda Boss (daughter of Isaac and Emily Boss) 19 April 1828 and died 1 April 1859, (4) Lucinda C., born 8 October 1803, (5) Sabrina, born 5 January 1808, (6) Dianah V., born 22 November 1810, (7) Marina, born 5 May, 1812, (8) Calvin, born 30 May 1814.

(For the children of Blake Thomas Sessoms, see the above cited Bible record, North Carolina Archives).

Robert Sessoms - (7. above) was born 25 December 1778 at Edgecombe County, North Carolina married Elizabeth Dancy, Hinds County, Mississippi ca 1798, and died at Hinds County, Mississippi 6 July 1845; and had James Dancy Sessoms and possibly others (see DAR Application National No 332388 above cited).

Jacob Sessoms - (6. above) Family history was provided this compiler by Mrs. Sue O'Hearn of St. Petersburg, Florida which is summarized below:

According to Mrs. O'Hearn, Jacob was born circa 1777 (1850 Census) married Penny Fisher circa 1797 and died in 1856; and had six known children. The children were:

a. Redding, a son, born in North Carolina in 1798 or 1800. He married Mary Ann Brown 5 February 1822 in Lawrence County, Mississippi. His children were: Elsie Ann, Panisa (sometimes called Pernisa or Pernesy), Wilson Russell, Elizabeth and William.

b. Thomas, born in Kentucky 1806; married Lessy Cooksey(?) 22 September 1829, Rankin County, Mississippi. We have no record of this family.

c. Polly, born in North Carolina in 1808, married Neal Williams in Mississippi. They had children but only a son, John, is named in records.

d. Solomon, born in Mississippi in 1820; wife Margaret; children: Sarah, Reubin, Penny, with some records in Texas.

e. Reubin Fisher Sessums, born 28 December 1824 in Hinds County, Mississippi; married Nancy Amanda Flemming 25 November 1856 in Panola County, Texas. Children: John Washington, William Thomas, J.J., Amanda Jane, Mary Elizabeth, Reubin Pinkney, Penelope Ann (called Penny A.) and Martin Van Buren.

f. William B. born in Mississippi in 1826. His wife was Mary; children: E.J., J.B., W.B., M.J.

Despite the difference in birth dates listed for Jacob on the DAR application (1789) and the one deducted from the 1850 Census (1777), it is the contention of this compiler that they are the same Jacob Sessoms. Both of Jacob Sr.'s sons, Robert and Jacob Jr., lived in Hinds County, Mississippi. Jacob's son Reuben was born there in 1824 (see e. above) and Robert died there in 1845. Also, in reviewing the

birth dates of Jacob, Sr.'s children, the 1777 birth date of Jacob Jr. would fall between Elizabeth (1776) and Robert (1778) which is consistent with the time span between the birth dates of other children, while the 1789 birth date would be 12 years later.

**B. Isaac Sessoms** according to one undocumented source, was born circa 1742 and married Francis \_\_\_\_\_ . He served as a Lt. Colonel in the American Revolution and was appointed at Kenston, North Carolina on September 9, 1779. (**North Carolina State Records of Military Service, Volume 23, Page 956**). He was elected to the North Carolina House of Commons and assisted in writing the State Constitution at Halifax on November 12, 1776, and served in the House for several years. (**Historical Sketches of North Carolina - For 1584 to 1851, by John W. Wheeler, Volume 1, Page 148**). He died before his will was probated in February, 1785 Court. His will and his inventory are abstracted below:

"**SESSUMS, Isaac** - Nov. 14, 1784. Feb. Ct., 1785. Son: RICHARD SESSUMS, all my estate, lands, negroes; sell perishables, discharge just debts. Exr: THOMAS HODGES. Wit: ROBT. DIGGES, JOHN DOLVIN."

"**SESSUMS, Col. Isaac** - inventory taken by Thomas Hodges, exr., included a certificate for attendance at the General Assembly, no date, Feb. Ct. 1785. Account of sale returned, May Ct. 1785. Additional inventory exhibited by the exr., May Ct. 1785. Account current with the exr., Aug. Ct. 1786."

Records show that Isaac had only one son, Richard, listed in the above will. He lived in Sampson County, became a Methodist minister and moved to N. \_\_\_\_\_, North Carolina.

C. **Solomon Sessoms** - the son of Richard Sessoms, is often confused with the Solomon Sessoms in Sampson County who served in the American Revolution. (For example, see DAR Application National No. 332388).

When Solomon was born is not known. His wife was Elizabeth Lloyd. His will indicates that he had one son, Isaac and daughters Sally, who married John Irwin; Charlotte who married Francis Dancy; and Elizabeth. He died some time after his will was made on 22 November 1817. Records show that he was a large landowner and a Justice of the Peace. For example, the Revolutionary War pay account of Aaron Odom was "Sworn before Solomon Sessoms and John Leigh, Justices of the Peace, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, 6 June 1791". (NCGSJ, Vol. XIV, No. 2, May 1888, p. 114). He also witnessed a power-of-attorney for Jesse Hornberry on 22 October 1778. (NCGSJ, Vol. X, No. 2, May 1884, p. 109).

Solomon left a will as follows:

"**SESSUMS, Solomon** - Town of Tarborough, Nov. 22, 1817. Feb. Ct., 1818. Wife: ELIZABETH, lot where I now live; land purchased of SIMON NEWSOME; negroes Sterling, old Charles, Celia,

old Gen. Nell and Rose; horse bought of LEMUEL THIGPEN, riding chair, 2 beds, bedsteads, side-board, chairs, china, glass and crockeryware, tables, kitchen furniture; 4 cows and calves; 1 yoke young steers; china press and things kept in it, to have the use of her life; then dispose of as herein directed, the right to cut timber use of lot I devised to her and \$900; dau: SALLY IRWIN, wife of JOHN ALEXANDER IRWIN, negroes Moses, Pat, Chane, at her decease divided among her chil. interest on \$400 annually; son & exr: ISAAC, in fee simple lands on N side Tar River subject to provision made for my wife etc; 140 A of land in Tennessee, storehouse and lot in town of Tarborough fronting Court House Square; negroes, John, Adam, Lucy and Little Jin. Dau: ELIZABETH SESSUMS, negroes, Simon, Silvia, Mary and chil: Daniel, Julia, Sophia and John; lot in town of Tarborough on which my blacksmith shop stands; dau: CHARLOTTE DANCY, negroes Charles, Ben, Lucy and her 2 chil Old Sylvia, new negro; \$400 in money, also negro Nell and her increase etc; daus: ELIZABETH SESSUMS and CHARLOTTE DANCY, my Tavern lot and Stable lot in town of Tarborough, etc; residue to be sold, debts paid, divided, etc. Exr: JOSHUA LAWRENCE. Wit: JOSPEH BELL, HENRY AUSTIN."

It is to be noted that the land on the "N. side of Tar River" mentioned in the will of Solomon is the land that was willed to Solomon by his father Richard, which is proof that this Solomon is the son of Richard. Moreover, minutes of the Edgecombe County, August 1769 Court states: "Solo. Sessoms orphan of Rich. Sessoms comes into court & chooses Isaac Sessums his Guardian etc." (Book II, p. 232).

The children of Solomon and Elizabeth were not researched by this compiler. However, a clue may be found in the North Carolina Census for son Isaac as follows: 1810, Rutherford; 1820, two Isaacs are listed

in Sampson County (we know that one is the son of the other Solomon); 1830, Columbus; 1840, none; 1850, Sampson.

Of the daughters, the will of Francis Dancy names Charlotte as his wife:

"DANCY, Francis L. - Tarboro - Sept. 20, 1845. Aug. Ct., 1848. Bk. F, p. 404. Wife: CHARLOTTE, 339 A tract, called Harris Place, S side Tar River adjoining DAVID BULLUCK, THEOPHILUS PARKER and MRS. MARY GREGORY, bought of THOMAS HARRIS, deed Nov. 15, 1817; 190 A tract called Parker Place E side of Hendricks Creek, adjoining LEWIS D. WILSON and THOMAS H. HALL, bought of JOHN PARKER, Aug. 1, 1828; in Tarbor-Lots 5, 6, 7, 8. Reversion lost 4 & 6 to son JOHN. Son & Exr: WILLIAM F., 1041 A tract called Strabane on N side Fishing Creek adjoining CHARLES MABRY and heirs of DREW BRYAN - bought of the late EDMUND MACNAIR - deed Dec. 31, 1834; also lots 18 & 29 in Tarboro with understanding dau: ELIZABETH M. BATTLE, wife of WM S. BATTLE shall have carriage house which stands on Lot 29 whenever she chooses to remove it; also all movables pertaining to ginhouse at Strabane and all books belonging to law library. Dau: DELHA M. FOREMAN, 503-3/4 A tract known as Batts place, N Side Tar River adjoining BEN J. BATTS, bought of JOSEPH BATTS, deed May 16, 1818; also 494 A tract bought of NORFLEET, Clerk of Ct., in making partition between COLLINS bros and others, deed Mar 22, 1841; also lot 83 in Tarboro adjoining GEO. HOWARD. Son & Exr: JOHN S., 584 A tract N side Tar River adjoining EPHRAIM DICKEN, SOLOMON PENDER & JOHN WILLIAMS bought of WM. H. HODGE, deed Jan. 2, 1833; 262 A tract bought of MICHAEL HEARN & wife MARTHA, deed Mar. 14, 1842; Lot 102 in Tarboro - also all movables appertaining to gin house on lot 102. 414 A tract opposite Strabane to DELHA M., WILLIAM F., JOHN S. - formerly belonged to ALEXANDER SESSOMS; deed by sheriff SPENCER L HART to me Oct. 14, 1920. Wit: HENRY T. CLARK, WM. NORFLEET, WM. GEO. THOMAS."

NOTE: The following information was provided by

Mrs. Sue O'Hearn:

"Sessums, Mississippi - was a village in Okitebeha County named for Captain Solomon David

Sessums, grandson of Lt. Solomon Sessums (of Revolutionary War service) and Elizabeth Lloyd Sessums; he was also related to Dr. Isaac Sessums and Mary Ann Short - Sessums, Solomon David was born in North Carolina in 1821 and married there in 1840. In 1845 they came to Mississippi and he procured land for his plantation. He gave a right-of-way across his land to the Mobile & Ohio Railroad and the Company named the town Sessums in honor of him. He was a Captain in the Confederate army during the Civil War.

The first house on his plantation was a six-room log house; it burned and was replaced by a colonial type two-story frame house with full length porches on both sides of the house both upstairs and downstairs. The house was on a beautifully wooded knoll and back of the house was another knoll where they had their family Cemetery. Captain Solomon David was buried there in 1895. Since early in this century, the Sessums family has been gone; the plantation house fell into disrepair and the land has new owners.

If this Solomon Sessums is the grandson of the above Solomon and Elizabeth Solomon Sessoms, his father would have been Isaac Sessoms. As before stated, the statement (of Revolutionary War service) is in error, because the Solomon who served in this war was the Solomon from Sampson County.

## Section IV

### CULMER SESSOMS

Culmer Sessoms is without doubt the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Smith Sessoms. Not only was he named after his great-grandfather Thomas Culmer, the father of Hannah Culmer Lane, the first wife of Nicholas Sessoms, but he is shown in close association with James Boon, who married the widow of Thomas Sessoms. For example, in a deed dated June 30, 1735, Culmer sells 220 acres to James Vallantine...part of a larger patent of James Boon's; and he was given one Negro by James Boon in his will. (**Abstracts of North Carolina Wills, J. Bryan Grimes, page 39**).

Culmer Sessoms first appeared on the Bertie County tax list in 1729, and in 1731 he approved the will of James Spears (**Minute Book 1, p. 45**). He continued to be listed on both the minutes and the deeds of Bertie County until 1758. It is apparent from these records, too numerous to list separately, that he was very active in County affairs and amassed a large estate.

Culmer Sessoms was married twice. The records show that he was first married to Mary Wynn (Winns), the daughter of George Wynn, and that his second wife was Rachel Perry, daughter of John Perry.



Proof of his marriage to Mary Wynn is in the will of George Wynn, where he gives his daughter Mary (wife of Culmer Sessoms) one Negro (see **Abstracts of North Carolina Wills by Grimes, p. 425**). Mary is also listed in the Wynn Genealogy by James Brodie as daughter of George Wynn and as the wife of Culmer Sessoms. (**Bodie: Historical Southern Families, Vol. II, p. 268**).

Proof of his marriage to Rachel Perry is found in a 1759 deed between James Boon and Culmer Sessoms. This deed states that the land in the deed was that which was inherited by Rachel from her father John Perry. (**Bertie County Deed Book C, p. 305**). The deed also shows that Culmer was living in Hertford County at the time. (It is to be noted that Hertford was formed from Bertie, Chowan and Northhampton Counties in 1756. Therefore, Culmer was living in that part of Bertie from which Hertford was formed.)

When Culmer was born and the exact date of his death are not recorded. However, according to a list of **Returns of Wills and Administrations Probated in North Carolina 1753-1790**, compiled by Ronson McBride, and printed in **NCGSJ, Vol. XIV, No. 2, p. 107, May 1988**, Culmer's will was probated in Hertford County in the May 1772 Court by Benjamin Brown. While this will is extent, it does indicate that Culmer died shortly before May 1772.

## Children

A 1757 Bertie County Tax List shows Culmer Sessoms with John and Culmer Sessoms along with three slaves living in his household. This would leave little doubt that John and Culmer are his sons. Also, Bodie, in his history of the Wynn family, names George Wynn as a son.

A. George Wynn Sessoms - is with little doubt the oldest son of Culmer Sessoms and Mary Wynn, since he does not appear on the 1757 List cited above. George does appear on the 1800 and 1810 Hertford County, North Carolina Census. The above cited Wynn history states that George W. married Katherine Roscoe and they had two sons: James and George W. II.

1. James of Bertie, born 1774 and died 1800. No other data is available.

2. George W. II was born in 1774, died 1828, and married Susan Walker (1774-1822), daughter of Thomas Walker Columbia, Tennessee. He had eight children: Benjamin, James, Martha, Polly, Susan, Elizabeth, Nancy and George Wynn.

B. John Sessoms - appears on the 1779 and 1784 Hertford County Tax List and the 1800 and 1810 North Carolina Census. The 1784 tax list shows John Sessoms with 265 acres of land, and one free white and four

slaves living in his household on the plantation. On the same tax list is G. Benjamin Sessoms, with 500 acres of land and one white and two slaves.

Two undocumented histories of the Sessoms Family of Hertford County were provided to this compiler by T. Terrell Sessoms of Tampa, Florida. One is by Press Sessoms and the other by James Elliot Moore. Both are undocumented and both state that John Sessoms is the founder of the Sessoms family in America and that he came to Hertford County before the Revolutionary War from England.

Of course, this is in error. There can be no doubt that John was the son of Culmer Sessoms and his first wife, Mary Wynn Sessoms. Although undocumented, the other genealogical information seems to be correct, and is summarized below.

According to the Moore paper, John married Annie Van Pelt, daughter of John Van Pelt, and developed a large plantation, called "White Plains" near Pitch Landing. According to both papers, he had four sons: John, William, Elisha and Samuel.

1. John, wife's name unknown, had two sons and one daughter: John, Nathan and Annie.

2. William, married his cousin, Elizabeth Van Pelt and had six children, of whom only four were named: Harrel B., a daughter - wife of a Taylor, William Wynn, and David.

3. Elisha, whose wife was not named, had four sons: Angrid, William Scull and Assah.

4. Samuel, whose wife was not named, had four daughters: Harriet, Eliza, Jane and Ophelia.

The two papers named above give much more genealogical information and are owned by T. Ferrell Sessoms, P.O. Box 130X1531, Tampa, Florida 33601.

C. Culmer Sessoms II - does not appear on the existing North Carolina Tax Lists through 1786, except when he is shown living in the household of his father on the 1757 Bertie Tax Rolls. This is possibly the same Culmer who is shown in the June, 1761 Edgecombe Court Minutes as overseer of a road. He is not shown on the Edgecombe County Court minutes from 1763 to 1774. The next record found by the compiler is when Culmer Sessoms of Duplin County buys 100 acres of land from Richard Sessoms in 1774, and another 200 acres in Duplin County from Samuel Sessoms in 1775 (**Duplin County Deed Book, p. 213, and Deed Book 35, p. 224**).

Then we find a 1783 deed where Culmer Sessoms of Bladen County sells 200 acres of land in Duplin County to Southey Fisher (**Duplin County Deed Book 8, p. 126**). In a 1 July 1794 deed, Culmer is shown selling Archibald McDaniel a plantation granted to F. Dours in 1787 and sale made from Frances Davis, his heirs, to Culmer Sessions. (**Bladen County Deed Book 7, p. 2**). He

is listed on the 1784 Bladen County Tax List and the 1790 North Carolina Census with one male living in his household.

Also shown on the 1790 Census for Bladen County are Isaac, no issue; Samuel with three girls and two boys (see later); and Thomas with seven girls and one boy. (These names are spelled Sessions). Since early courthouse fires destroyed many old records, further information on Culmer Sessoms could not be found.

## Section V

### SAMUEL SESSOMS

While there is no proof, there can be little doubt that Samuel Sessoms is the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Smith Sessoms. Not only is he shown living near the other Sessoms, but is a witness to many of their land transactions. Moreover, the fact that the name, Samuel, was given to other generations of Sessoms, along with Thomas, William, Nicholas and Culmer, helps establish this close relationship. This relationship is first established when Samuel witnesses the deed where Nicholas Smith gave 100 acres of land to his nephew Richard Sessoms (**Bertie County Deed Book "C", p. 129, dated February 8, 1729**).

Considering that Samuel was at least 21 years old in 1729, this would place his birth well before Thomas's death in 1711. After witnessing this deed, Samuel does not appear on the Bertie County records.

Samuel is shown buying and selling land in Edgecombe County shortly before the new county was formed from Bertie County in 1741.

Apparently, Samuel owned land in Bertie County before Edgecombe County was formed because we find that he sells Drew Smith (son of Richard Smith and brother of Samuel's mother, Elizabeth Smith Sessoms) 160 acres

on the north side of the Tar River on August 20, 1740 (Deed Book 1, page 350). Both deeds were witnessed by Richard Sessoms.

The books show no other transactions until Samuel buys 197 acres on Tryon Corey Swamp from John Poter (Deed Book 2, page 189). This deed was witnessed by Nicholas Sessoms and Richard Sessoms. A February 14, 1756 deed shows Samuel's land joining William Williams's, the son of William Williams and Ann Sessoms.

Going back to a 1740 deed between William Cocheron and Wally Chancey, Samuel's land is shown joining the land of John Williams, another son of William Williams and Ann Sessoms (Deed Book 5, page 3).

On February 15, 1743, Samuel sells 320 acres of land to Robert Wright on the south side of the Tar River, which is "part of a patent to sd. Sessoms, 11 July 1739". (Deed Book 5, p. 219). In 1774, Samuel witnessed a deed of Nicholas Sessoms (Deed Book 5, p. 369). A 1755 deed mentions the 320 acres sold by Samuel to Robert Wright. (Deed Book 6, p. 7).

On May 6, 1757, James Parmenter sells Richard Sessoms (the son of Samuel Sessoms) 200 acres of land on Little Creek (Deed Book 6, p. 191). Samuel is mentioned in a 25 September 1758 deed between Thomas Belcher and Thomas Hurrell (Deed Book 6, page 353). This deed was witnessed by Nicholas Sessoms.

In a deed in 1765, Samuel sells land to Len Sugg, which is witnessed by Thomas Sessoms (Book "C", p. 386). Samuel also is mentioned in a deed dated July 15, 1766 (Deed Book "C", p. 420).

Samuel is shown in the County Court minutes of Edgecombe County seven times between 1744 and 1763. Most of these entries are where Samuel served on a jury or was assigned to work on a road. Then we find this: A deed of sale from Samuel Sessoms to Jeremiah Simons, proved by Thomas Sessoms, dated March Court 1762; and in the same court there is a deed of sale from Samuel Sessoms to Thomas Sessoms, proved by Jeremiah Simons. (The first is a deed between Samuel and Simons dated 1762, and witnessed by Nicholas and Thomas. (Deed Book 1, p. 188).

In Minute Book II, Edgecombe County Court for the years 1763 - 1774, Samuel is listed twice. First in the January 1763 Court, he is shown as being a member of the Petit Jury; and, in the July Court of 1766, the land Samuel sold land to Lenuel Suggs is acknowledged. No further mention of Samuel Sessoms is found by this compiler on the records of Edgecombe County, through 1786.

Samuel is next shown on the records of Duplin County, when he buys 200 acres of land lying on the east side of the Black River (the name of part of this river, which forms the borders of Sampson and



Cumberland Counties, was later changed to South River. Also, Sampson County was formed from Duplin in 1784). This deed was dated February 8, 1766 (**Duplin County Deed Book 1, p. 275**).

Samuel is listed on the tax rolls of Cumberland County in 1767. Then we find that Samuel buys another 200 acres from John Williams in Duplin County on April 4, 1768 (**Duplin County Deed Book 1, p. 195**).

Next, Samuel Sessoms, Sr. buys 100 acres on Beaver Dam Swamp and Black River from Thomas Copland on January 25, 1771. This deed states that Copland is from Bladen County and Samuel is from Duplin County (**Duplin County Deed Book 4, p. 446**).

This deed is very significant since it shows that Samuel bought land in Bladen County; it is witnessed by Richard Sessoms who is named as a son of Samuel in a Bertie County deed mentioned earlier (**Bertie County Deed Book 6, p. 191**). He is listed as Samuel Sr., implying that he has a son also named Samuel.

On March 13, 1780, Samuel sells 100 acres to John Dorries "lying in Bladen County, west side of South River" and another "parcel of 100 acres lying and being in Duplin County, on east side of South River and Beaver Dam Creek" (**Duplin County Deed Book 7, p. 19**). Then on June 13, 1782, Samuel sells Isaac Sessoms 100 acres on Little Cahary Swamp and South River near a

place called Hicks Island (Duplin County Deed Book 8, p. 4). This deed was witnessed by Solomon, Richard and Nicholas Sessoms. This is the last deed mentioning Samuel (either Jr. or Sr.) in Duplin or Sampson County. (Sampson County was formed from Duplin County in 1784).

Next we find a Samuel Sessoms in Bladen County; however, this connection will be deferred until Samuel, Jr. is discussed below.

### Children

A. Richard Sessoms - Richard Sessoms is named as a son of Samuel Sessoms in a May 6, 1757 Edgecombe County deed which states "James Parmenter of Edgecombe County, to Richard Sessoms of Edgecombe County, the son of Samuel Sessoms .... for 4000 weight of goods and merchantable pork, 200 acres on Little Creek .... (Deed Book 6, p. 191). There are several land transactions between a Richard Sessoms and various parties in Edgecombe County deed books. However, for the period 1732 to 1758, there is at least one other Richard Sessoms living in the County, making the distinction between the two impossible. (Some of these deeds were listed when Richard, son of Thomas was discussed in Part Four, Section III). The Edgecombe County Minute books for the period 1763 through 1774 lists a Richard Sessoms in Edgecombe County. Yet,

during parts of this period, three Richard Sessoms were living in the County: Richard, son of Thomas, who died pre-1769; Richard, the son of Iassc, and Richard, the son of Samuel. The same is true in Sampson County where a Richard Sessoms is shown many times. But again, there are two Richard Sessoms on the 1784 North Carolina Tax Rolls for Sampson County. It can be assumed that one is the son of Samuel and the other is the son of Isaac. (No further research was made of this son)

B. Thomas Sessoms - is shown approving a deed between Samuel Sessoms and Jeremiah Simons in Edgecombe County in the March, 1762, Court Minutes. In the same Court there is a deed of sale from Samuel to Thomas. While Thomas does not appear on the Duplin or Sampson County records, he is listed with Samuel on the 1784 Bladen County Tax List and is shown on the 1790 North Carolina Census for Bladen County as having seven (7) girls and one (1) boy living in his household.

There are several deeds in Bladen County pertaining to Thomas Sessoms. On December 17, 1796, he was granted 45 acres on the west side of the White Marsh joining the land where he now lives. (Grant No. 2046-45). On August 2, 1798, Thomas witnessed a deed between Thomas and Solomon Dyson to John Wingate for 85 acres on the west side of White Marsh. He witnessed another deed for John Wingate on November 20, 1796.

There are other Bladen County deeds where a Thomas Sessoms is involved, but due to the destruction of County records a relationship cannot be established. There are also a William Sessoms, a John Sessoms and a Jonathon Sessoms shown on the existing deeds, without identifying a relationship. The seven "girls" listed on the 1790 Census living in the household of Thomas Sessoms have not been identified.

C. Samuel Sessoms Jr. - While it has been established by the above cited deed where Samuel is listed as Samuel Sessoms, Sr., that he had a son named Samuel, the two are not distinguished by Jr. or Sr. in other transactions, thus making it impossible to determine who is who. However, considering that Samuel, Sr., was at least 21 years old when he witnessed the deed between Nicholas Smith and Richard Sessoms in 1729, this makes him at least 74 years old in 1782. Consequently, it is the contention of this compiler that the Samuel who will be discussed in Part Five is Samuel, Jr. and not Samuel, Sr.

## Part Five

### FRANK M. SESSOMS

#### (His Ancestors and Descendants)

This part is devoted to the ancestors and descendants of Frank M. Sessoms of Cumberland County, North Carolina and Darlington County, South Carolina.

Because his first three ancestors, Nicholas, Thomas and Samuel, are included in previous parts of this work, this part begins with his fourth ancestor, Samuel Sessoms, Jr. However, for clarity the complete lineage of Frank M. Sessoms is given below:

1. Nicholas Sessoms, Immigrant Ancestor (see Part Two).

2. Thomas Sessoms, son of Nicholas Sessoms (see Part Three).

3. Samuel Sessoms, Sr., son of Thomas Sessoms (see Part Four - Section V).

4. Samuel Sessoms, Jr.

5. Thomas Sessoms

6. William Sessoms

7. Thomas L. Sessoms

8. Frank M. Sessoms

a. His descendants (9th generation)

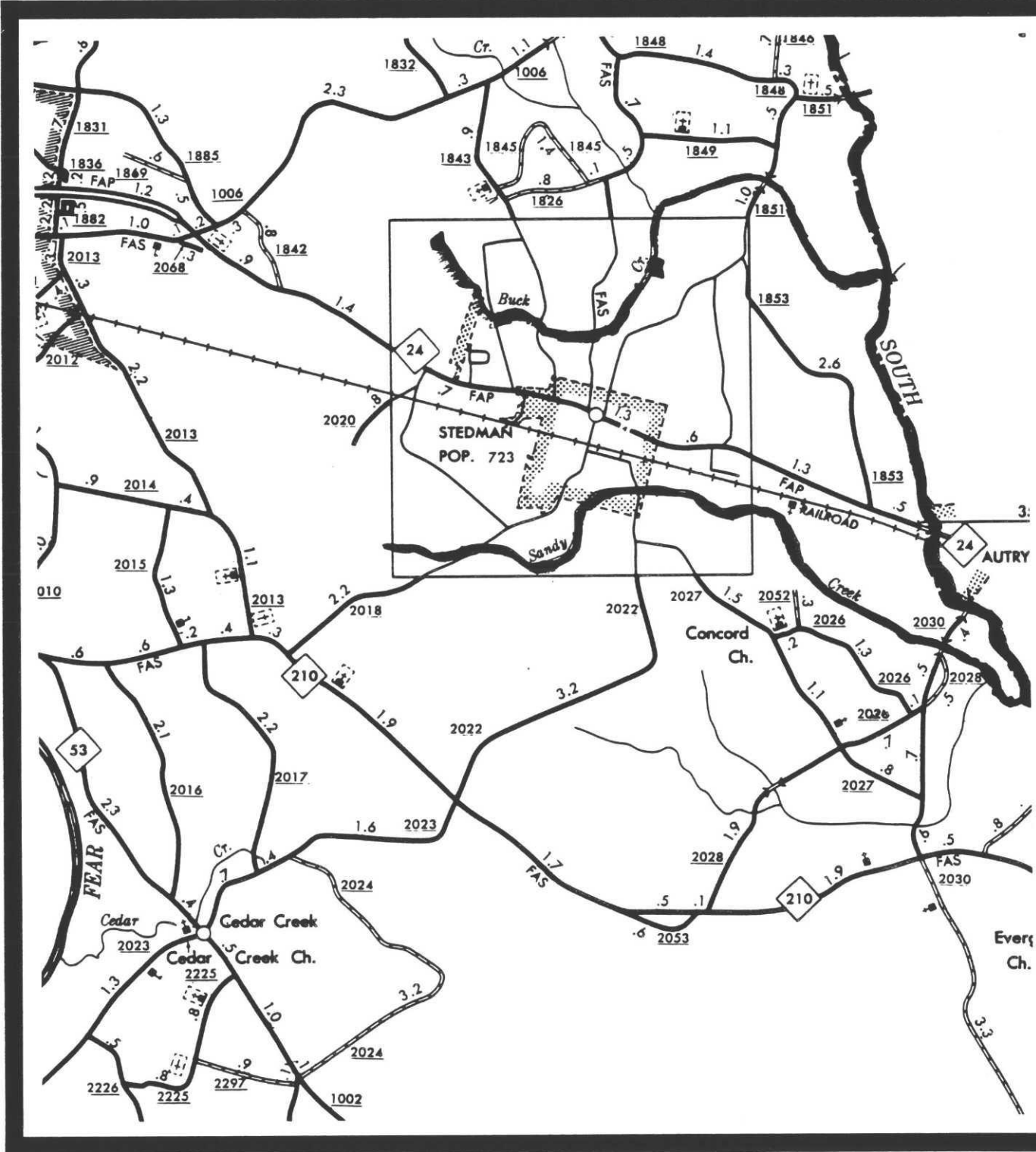
b. His descendants (10th generation)

## Samuel Sessoms, Jr.

Samuel Sessoms, Jr., son of Samuel Sessoms, Sr. (Part Four, Section V), first appears in Bladen County on the 1784 North Carolina Tax List. Next, he is shown on the 1790 North Carolina Census for Bladen County as having two (2) boys and three (3) girls living in his household. There are no land transaction involving Samuel Sessoms in the existing deed books of Bladen County. Next we find Samuel Sessoms on the 1800 North Carolina Census living in the adjoining county of Cumberland.

The 1800 Census data show that Samuel had living in his household two (2) males age 16-26; one (1) male over 45; two (2) females under 10 years old; and one (1) female over 45.

Of course, the male over 45 would be Samuel, Jr. and the female over 45, his wife. The two females under 10 have been identified as Rachel and Penelope. The two males age 16-26 have been identified as Thomas and Henry, who will be discussed in detail later. There is only one land transaction of Samuel Sessoms on the deed books of Cumberland County, when he bought 100 acres from Malcolm Munn on the southwest side of Black River (now the South River), on Buck Creek Neck on August 12, 1804. As the map on page 69a shows, this land was near the present village of Steadman, where the Sessoms would live for many generations.



Map of Cumberland County, showing Steadman,  
Buck Creek and Sandy Creek

While this deed and the 1800 Census are the only official records of Samuel in Cumberland County, a 262-page handwritten "Sessoms Genealogy" was compiled from interviews by W.T. Sessoms of Los Angeles, California, in 1936. Only six (6) copies of this work were made, one being owned by Mr. Bonner Hubbard of Fayetteville, North Carolina, who graciously loaned it to this compiler. (A copy of this work was made by this compiler and donated to the Cumberland County Library, Fayetteville.) Although most of this work is devoted to the decedants of Samuel's son Henry, in an interview with Nancy and Margaret MacWilliams (granddaughters of Henry Sessoms), the following information concerning Samuel was given and is quoted below:

**Samuel Sessoms Jr.** - was born circa 1750, married Easter Bullard, daughter of Thomas Bullard, circa 1772 and died circa 1836. It is further stated that Easter died on a Sunday, May 5, 1844, and that Easter and Samuel had the following children: Henry, Rachel, Thomas and Penelope.

In a narrative, Mr. W.T. Sessoms states that Samuel had a sister who became the wife of Green Faircloth's father of Bladen County. He further stated that Easter Bullard (wife of Samuel) was from Nansemond County, Virginia, and that Easter's father is buried in the Hall-Bullard Cemetery near Clay Fork, Cumberland



County, and the monument has this inscription: "Thomas Bullard, born in Virginia, a Revolutionary Soldier".

**Roster of Soldiers from the North Carolina in the American Revolution** shows a Thomas Bullard serving in the 10th North Carolina Regiment, having enlisted March 10, 1778 for 9 months (**page 112**). He is also shown as having a claim received for him by John Marshall (**page 512**) and receiving a North Carolina pension for his war service (**page 572**). Two Thomas Bullards are listed on the 1784 North Carolina Tax Rolls, one living in Sampson and the other in Bladen Counties (no further research was made by this compiler).

### Children

Before discussing these children, it should be noted that while some of the information listed in the W.T. Sessoms genealogy is in error, the number of Samuel's children is supported by the 1800 Census cited above. The names of the sons Henry and Thomas has also been validated. The two daughters, Rachel and Penelope were not researched by this compiler. However, Rachel Sessoms' marriage to Thomas Bullock on May 12, 1810 is validated by Cumberland County, North Carolina Marriage Bonds, (**p. 00089**), as stated by Mr. W.T. Sessoms.

A. **Henry Sessoms** - the son of Samuel and Easter Bullard Sessoms, is listed on the 1850 Cumberland County, North Carolina Census as age 69, having him born in 1781. According to the W.T. Sessoms genealogy, he married Lydia Bullock circa 1798, the daughter of Thomas Bullock. This genealogy also states that Henry died on a Saturday, December 21, 1878 and that Lydia died on a Sunday, June 8, 1845.

The Cumberland County Deed Books show he started buying land in 1802 (**Book 19, p. 37**), when he was 21 years old (this deed is unreadable except for the date and name). Then in 1805, Henry buys 100 acres on the north side of the Long Branch of Sandy Creek. This included 25 acres from H.G. Barton on June 5, 1823 (**Deed Book 29, p. 330**); 60 acres from James Geddie on September 6, 1819 (**Book 32, p. 42**), and John McMillan (no acres given) to Henry and Amos Sessoms on north side of Long Branch June 19, 1741. This deed was witnessed by Thomas Sessoms and Thomas J. Maxwell (**Book 44, p. 168**).

Then Henry Sessoms started to sell his land as follows: Henry Sessoms to John C. Blocker, 150 acres on June 19, 1843 (**Book 45, p. 121**). This deed states that this land was acquired by Henry on October 14, 1800, which means that he had the land when he was living in the household of Samuel. Henry Sessoms to William Sessoms, tract granted to James Geddie, deeded

to Henry Sessoms September 6, 1819, 60 acres dated November 19, 1852 (Deed Book 51, p. 326). (The location of this land is not noted on the deed). Henry Sessoms to Amos Sessoms February 14, 1856 (Book 6, p. 152). It is to be noted that most of Henry's land was located on Sandy Creek, south of Steadman (see Map, page 69a). However, the Tax Lists for Cumberland County for the years 1816, 1817, 1819, 1822 and 1823, indicate that Henry's land was on Lock's Creek, which is not shown on the map referenced above, but it was probably a tributary of Sandy River. The Cumberland County deed books do not reveal the total acreage that Henry owned; however, the above referenced Tax List shows that he owned 460 acres in 1823, and the 1850 Agriculture Schedule for Cumberland County shows this: Item 33, Henry Sessoms: 30 ac imp, 155 ac unimp, \$250 value; 1 horse, 1 cow, 4 cattle, 5 sheep, 30 swine, \$135 livestock; 50 bu. corn, 10 lbs, wool, 30 bu. peas, 5 bu. I pot, 125 bu. S pot, 1 ton hay, \$8 home manuf., \$75 slaug.

### Children

The children of Henry and Lydia Bullock Sessoms according to the W.T. Sessoms genealogy, were:

1. Katherine - born circa 1800, married John MacMillan and died circa 1880. Their children were: Peter, Katharine, Mary, Nancy, and Margaret.

2. Amos - born December 8, 1803, married Margaret Autry and died April 9, 1859. Their children were: Charlotte, Kelly, William, Nancy, Alexander, James, Amos, David, John and Isaac.

Amos is listed on the deed books as buying 200 acres of land from Luke Harls on April 12, 1825, when he was 21 years old. This land is located on Sandy Creek where Henry owned most of this land. Also, this deed was witnessed by Henry Sessoms and Shepard Sewell (Book 36, p. 66). Then, on June 19, 1841, Henry and Amos bought another tract of land on the north side of Long Branch Creek (also, on Sandy Creek) from John McMillan (Book 44, p. 168). This deed was witnessed by Thomas Sessom and Thomas Maxwell. Amos buys 200 acres from Henry Sessoms on May 24, 1845 on both sides of Sandy Creek, witnessed by Arthur Horne (Book 46, p. 132).

The **Agriculture Schedule** of the 1850 Census for Cumberland County shows this: "Item 26 - Amos Sessoms: 75 ac imp, 421 ac unimp, \$1500 value; \$85 imple; 2 horses, 7 cows, 16 cattle, 25 sheep, 70 swine, \$305 livestock; 350 bu corn, 40 lbs. wool, 40 bu peas, 300 bu S pot, 150 lbs. butter, 2 tons hay, \$50 home manuf, \$130 slaug.

Then in December, 1865, a deed of division shows this: "Amos Sessoms dec'd to Kelly Sessoms, Alexander and David Sessoms, John Riley & wife Charlotte, Robert

Aarrett and wife Nancy, children and heirs at large of Amos Sessoms (Book 56, p. 418).

3. Thomas Sessoms - was born November 8, 1806, married Mary Pursall on September 10, 1827 and then married Mary Jane "Polly" Autry on August 2, 1841, and died circa 1900. Children by Mary Pursall were: Henry, James, Neill and Katherine. Children by Polly Autry were: Sherwood, Mary, Rachel, Henrietta (Riett), and Jerusha (S.S.).

4. Henry Sessoms Jr. - was born circa 1811 (1850 Census, where he is shown as age 39, living in the household of Henry Sr.), married Rebecca Jane Howley on February 24, 1867, and died circa 1895. They had one child, Stephen Henry. He was born April 16, 1871, married Hattie Pitman on November 25, 1895 and died circa 1940 in Hope County, North Carolina.

5. Mary Sessoms - was born circa 1814 (1850 Census where she is shown in the household of Henry Sr.), never married and died circa 1851.

6. James Sessoms - was born circa 1817 (1850 Census with Henry Sr.), never married, died circa 1851.

B. Thomas Sessoms - the second son of Samuel, Jr., will be discussed later.

## Clarification

Since there were 3 Henry Sessoms living in Cumberland County at the same time, an attempt will be made here to sort out the relationships among the 3 Henrys.

As stated above, Henry Sr. and Henry Jr. are listed on the 1850 and 1860 census living in the same household. Moreover, another Henry Sessoms is listed on the 1860 census as age 45, making him born in 1815. Since the Henry living in the house of Henry Sr. was born in 1811, this Henry could not be the son of Henry Jr., since he had only one son much later, and of course Henry Sr. already has a son named Henry. This leaves Thomas.

There are several land transactions from circa 1840 through 1850 involving a Henry Jr., but because both of the younger Henrys were listed as Jr., these transactions cannot be sorted out. (It is to be noted that at this time - 1850 to 1860 - Jr. did not necessarily mean the son of, but that a senior person with the same name was a close relative).

### Thomas Sessoms

Thomas Sessoms - the fifth ancestor of Frank M. Sessoms is listed as a son of Samuel and Easter Sessoms

in the W.T. Sessom's genealogy cited earlier. He first appears on the Cumberland County records when a marriage bond was issued to him and Margaret Davis on December 6, 1806. He next is shown on the 1810 Cumberland County Census on line 263 with his brother Henry on line 264.

On the few existing Tax Lists of Cumberland County, Thomas is shown for the years 1817 and 1819 as owning 60 acres of land located on Lock's Creek where brother Henry's land was also located. He is not listed on the tax rolls for the years 1822 or 1823, where Henry appears as living on Lock's Creek. There is no record of Thomas in Cumberland County after the 1819 Tax List. However, there is a Thomas Sessoms on the 1820 Bladen County Census with a William Sessoms in his household. This raises the distinct possibility that Thomas moved to Bladen County (across the river) after the 1819 tax assessment. This is further supported by the fact that Thomas' wife, Margaret Davis, is named in the will of Edward Davis, whose will was probated in the Bladen County Court in 1790 (**Olds' Abstracts of North Carolina Wills, p. 3**). Others mentioned in the will are wife Margaret and children Edward, William, Greenwood, John B., and Jean Blocker. Then we find that William Davis sold 100 acres of land to Thomas Sessoms "on Panter Branch, Bladen County in 1824" (**Book 0, p. 209**). As before mentioned, there are

several land transactions involving a Thomas Sessoms in the Bladen County Deed Books, but because there were at least two Thomas Sessoms living in the County at the same time, a definite distinction cannot be made.

### Children

It is to be noted that the only child that can be substantiated by this compiler to be the son of Thomas is William, sixth ancestor of F. M. Sessoms, who will be discussed in detail later. However, there are three (3) Sessoms listed on Cumberland County records who are not included in W.T. Sessoms genealogy as being the children of Henry and therefore could possibly be the children of Thomas since they fall within the proper age category. These are: (1.) Dickson, listed on the 1850 Cumberland County Census as age 30 and living in the household of George W. Bullard; (2.) Henry, who married Betsy Deal, is shown on the 1850 and 1860 Census as being born in 1815, and having wife, Elizabeth (Betsy) and children Joseph, age 19, Elizabeth, age 14, and Charles, age 10, living in his household; (3.) Riley, who is listed on the 1860 Agriculture Schedule as owning among other things, 110 acres of land, but is not listed on the Census or other records.



## William Sessoms

William Sessoms - sixth ancestor of F. M. Sessoms, is without doubt the son of Thomas and Margaret Sessoms. Land transactions, Tax Lists, Census data and marriage bonds clearly indicate that there were only two Sessoms in Cumberland County that could have been his father: Henry and Thomas. With Henry's children being identified, we know that William was the son of Thomas. Moreover, this is further supported by the fact that William named two of his children after his parents: Thomas and Margaret.

William Sessoms was born in 1813, (1850 & 1860 Census) married Mary Autry 31 November 1846 (**Cumberland County Marriage Bond, p. 00087**) and died between 1860 and 1870, according to North Carolina Census for those years. The 1850 Census lists his occupation as Laborer and the 1860 Census states "Timber Getter".

According to the deeds, he bought 60 acres of land from his Uncle Henry in 1852 (**Deed Book 51, p. 326**). Since this deed does not list a distinct landmark, its exact location cannot be determined. However, it was in the Steadman area where the other Sessoms owned land. When and to whom this land was transferred cannot be found in the Cumberland County records, which are incomplete.

### Civil War Service

William Sessoms enlisted to serve in the Civil War according to the book **North Carolina Troops: 1861-1865, p. 51, Vol. IV** that states:

"William Sessoms - Pvt. Born Cumberland County where he resided as a farmer prior to his enlistment in Cumberland County at age 49, August 21, 1861, for the war. Rejected by mustering officer."

William Sessoms left no will, but the 1860 Cumberland County Census shows his wife and the following children: (1) William, age 17; (2) Margaret, age 14; (3) Thomas, age 12; (4) Lane, age 10; and (5) John W., age 2.

Of these children, extensive research was made only for Thomas. However, Cumberland County marriage bonds show that Margaret married James Bullock 9 January 1868. Also, the Civil War record of William James Sessoms is abstracted from North Carolina Troops, etc., page 520:

**Sessoms, William James**, Private - Resided in Cumberland County where he enlisted at age 18, May 29, 1861, for the war. Admitted to hospital at Danville, Virginia, June 29, 1862, with "typhoides febris" and was returned to duty August 20, 1862. Again admitted to hospital at Richmond Virginia, October 14, 1862, with "caries tibia". Reported as absent sick from that date until detailed for hospital duty April 6, 1863. Absent on detail at various hospitals in Richmond until captured in hospital at Richmond on April 3, 1865. Paroled on April 18, 1865, at Richmond."

## Thomas L. Sessoms

Thomas L. Sessoms - the seventh ancestor of F. M. Sessoms, was born 6 May 1847, married Rebecca Baker, daughter of James and Catherine Baker 11 October 1871. (The marriage bonds show that James Baker married Catherine McIntyre on 5 May 1841). Thomas died 17 January 1915. Catherine was born 10 June 1846 and died 25 January 1911. Both are buried in the Sessoms Cemetery near Steadman.

While Thomas' land is not shown on the Cumberland County deed books, according to his son F.M. Sessoms, he owned a farm near Steadman where, in addition to farming, he engaged in logging and owned and operated a "Char-Pit", where charcoal was made and sold to the blacksmith shops of Fayetteville.

### Children

A. **James Robert Sessoms** - born 26 September 1862, died 19 September 1948, married Janie Hall Sessoms and had:

1. James Arthur Sessoms - married Lee Hodges
2. Katie Sessoms - married Gus Williford

B. **Callie Sessoms** - born 1874, died 1895, married Inton McLaurin and had no children.

C. **Lenora Elizabeth Sessoms** - born 4 August

1876, died 2 October 1959, married David James  
McLaurin, and had:

1. Daisy Gertrude Mclaurin
2. Iula Myrtle McLaurin - married Eston L.  
McLaurin
3. Rosa Elizabeth McLaurin - married Allen  
David Smith
4. Rena Kathryne McLaurin - first married  
Fulton Beard and then married Ausby M.  
McLaurin

**D. Lula Sessoms** - married Wellington F.  
McLaurin and had:

1. Ora Mae McLaurin - married Stacy Jones
2. Lillie Braxton McLaurin - married Roy  
Hughes
3. Monnie Pearl McLaurin - married Gordon  
Horne
4. Iredell McLaurin

**E. Carrie Lillie Sessoms** - married David Darius  
Williford, and had:

1. Virginia Lou Williford - first married  
Fletcher McLaurin and then married  
Wayland Culbreth

**F. Frank Martin Sessoms** - married Maggie  
Garrison (see later).

**G. William Elbert Sessoms** - married Kathleen  
Moore and had:

1. Rebecca Sessoms

2. William Sessoms

H. **Hugh Thomas Sessoms** - married Janie Bullock  
and had:

1. Jessie Elbert Sessoms - married Berline  
Royal Sessoms
2. Horace Sessoms - married Mary Frances  
Sullivan Sessoms
3. Myrtle Sessoms - married Curtis Jackson

#### **FRANK MARTIN SESSOMS**

Frank Martin Sessoms was born 4 October 1886,  
married Maggie Margaret Garrison 14 July 1923 at  
Lancaster, South Carolina and died 10 February 1979.  
Maggie Sessoms was born 5 September 1903 and died 30  
August 1972. She was the daughter of Benjamin Garrison  
and Viola Anderson Garrison.

Mr. Frank, as he was frequently called, grew up  
on his father's farm near Steadman, North Carolina (**see  
Map page 69a**) and assisted his father on the farm. He  
was also engaged in logging and worked with the  
Char-Pit where charcoal was made and sold.

Sometime before the First World War, he was  
employed by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad because  
his discharge states that he was a "Railroad Worker"  
when he was inducted.

## World War I Service

Frank M. Sessoms was inducted in the Army 25 May 1918 at Fayetteville, North Carolina and was discharged at Camp Lee, Virginia 4 April 1919. At the time of his induction, his discharge papers state that he was 31 years, had blue eyes, black hair, ruddy complexion and stood 5 ft. and 8 inches tall. The discharge also states that his character was excellent and he had "No A.W.O.L."

He served with the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in Company K, 321st Infantry Regiment, 81st Division from 31 July 1918 to 19 March 1919. He was wounded the day the War was declared over, 11 November 1918, in the Argonne Forest in the Battle of Verdun. It is interesting to note, that Verdun, where he was wounded, is within 50 miles of the French City of Soissons, where the Sessoms family got the name centuries before. (see Map page 84a).

After the war, he returned to his job with the railroad as a carpenter and later as construction foreman, where he built or repaired train stations from Norfolk, Virginia to Jacksonville, Florida. Shortly after his marriage in 1923, he quit the railroad and worked as a carpenter foreman until age 65, when he started his own building business. Now known as "Sessoms Builders", the business is owned and operated by his son Franklin M. Sessoms.



Map showing Verdun and Argonne Woods where Frank Sessoms was wounded

Over the years, Mr. Frank built a reputation based on personal integrity, quality craftsmanship and hard work. These qualities, plus the strong moral principles instilled by his wife, Miss Maggie, leaves his descendants with a legacy to be emulated and should endure long past the present generation.

#### **Descendants**

A. **Kathryn Elizabeth Sessoms** - born 17 May 1924, married Colin Marshall McLaurin and had:

1. Jocee Elizabeth McLaurin

B. **Edna Oline Sessoms** - born 11 March 1926, and died young.

C. **Earline Rebecca Sessoms** - born 4 May 1927, married James E. Morgan Jr. and died 13 May 1990.

D. **Josephine Sessoms** - born 13 September 1929, married Robert Gene Cox (deceased) and had:

1. Robert Gene Cox Jr., who married Kimberly Maye Cox and had Robert Gene Cox III

2. Larry Martin Cox

E. **Franklin Marvin Sessoms** - born 29 January 1932

F. **Walter Woodrow Sessoms** - born 14 January 1932, married Harriet Ann Floyd and adopted:

1. Lee Stafford Sessoms - married Brooke Sharpe Sessoms

2. Molly Sessoms, who died 29 December 1980

3. Kay Sessoms



G. **James Edward Sessoms** - born 22 February 1936, married Sybil Byrd and had:

1. Cheryl Ann Sessoms - married Keller Watson and had (1) Sandra Carr Watson and (2) Rebecca Ann Hayes Watson
2. Sondra Jo Sessoms

H. **Ethyl Virginia Sessoms** - born 25 March 1938, married John Albrecht (deceased)

I. **Alice Annette Sessoms** - born 1 January 1941, married Charles Black and had:

1. Charles Steven Black
2. Carrie Rebecca Black

## PART SIX

### Some Related Families

While no extensive research was made to identify families related to the Sessoms, the following were found and included in this part:

I. **The Smith Family** - Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Richard Smith, married Thomas Sessoms (see Part Three).

II. **The Blow Family** - Mary Blow, daughter of George Blow, married Richard Smith (see above).

III. **The Wynn Family** - Mary Wynn, daughter of George Wynn, married Culmer Sessoms (see Part Four, Section IV).

## Section I

### The Smiths of Smithfield, Virginia

(Abstracted from Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight, Virginia, by John B. Boddie, pp. 245 through 250).

Seated along the shores of the Blackwater in Essex, England, near the Wisemans of Rivenhall, who first settled Isle of Wight, and related to them was the Smith family of Blakemore and the Jennings family of Dunmow. It seems that several members of these two families later settled in Virginia. Among them was Colonel Arthur Smith, Burgess of Isle of Wight and his brother-in-law Thomas Jennings.

The first of the Smiths at Blakemore was John Smith, second son of Thomas Smith of Rivenhall. John Smith was one of the auditors of King Henry VIII and that monarch granted him the manor and site of the priory of Blackmore or Blakemore in 1540. He married Dorothy, daughter of Trymmell of Worcester who was also a king's auditor.

John Smith did not live long to enjoy his lands at Blackmore for he made his will the 10th day of May, 1544, and died soon thereafter. His will is a remarkable document and is shown fully in the Essex Arch. Society Transactions (Vol. III, p. 56) as a specimen of his times. He bequeathed his eldest son Thomas "all my harness, weapons and artillery that is in my armory or gallery at Smythe's Hall, Blackmore."

Thomas succeeded him. According to Morant (Vol. II, p. 57), Thomas married first, Blanche, daughter of Nicholas Colshill of Middlesex, by whom he had two sons and two daughters. Francis the eldest son, married a daughter of Sir Henry Billingsley, alderman of London but was disinherited by his father. Thomas' second wife was Margaret, daughter and sole heir of John Turner

of Cressing Hall in Essex by whom he had six sons and four daughters. He died 10 May, 1594, aged seventy years and is buried, with epitaph, in the church at Blackmore.

The monument of Thomas Smyth (1594) and his wife Margaret is in the south aisle of the east end of the Parish Church of St. Laurant at Blackmore. It is an altar tomb of modern brick and cement with two enriched alabaster pilasters, and upon it repose recumbent effigies of a man in armour and a woman in ruff and close dress, all of alabaster repaired with plaster. In the bell chamber are numerous fragments of the tomb including parts of the kneeling figures of four sons and two daughters. (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, Essex, Central and S. W., p. 17.)

John, the eldest son of Thomas and his second wife, died without issue, 31 May, 1621. Charles inherited next, but by his wife, Dorothy, daughter of Wiseman of Rivenhall, he had an only daughter, another Dorothy, who married a Thomas Jennings of Dunmow. Having no male heirs, Arthur, his next brother, succeeded him in the manor of Blackmore (Morant).

Arthur Smith, "the next brother," married Anne Milward and died the 7th of March, 1622-23, soon after his succession. His children were as follows:

- I. Captain Stephen Smith, eldest son, was 18 years, 9 months, and 7 days old when he succeeded his father. He died the 22nd of September, 1670, aged 68. He married Jane, daughter of Thomas Bennett, alderman of London, and had Arthur, his son and heir, aged 22 in 1664; Henry who died the 22nd of December, 1671, aged 28; Stephen who died 14, March, 1672, aged 23, and Thomas the 23rd of May 1684, aged 34. (From epitaphs in the church at Blackmore with an achievement of arms on each tomb, argent a crosse gules between four peacocks azure.) His other children were: Dorothy; Margaret; Nicholas; Joanna who married Nicholas Alexander; Bennett who died a child, and Christian. Thomas who died in 1684 had a daughter who married William Tendring. When his male heirs failed in 1724 Blackmore passed to the Tendrings.

II. Thomas, second son, may have been the Thomas Smith who together with Silvester Tatnam and two other persons patented 400 acres in Martin's Hundred, James City County, 24 April, 1632. (C. & P., p. 17.) On 21 July, 1635, Thomas received another grant of 250 acres in Martin's Hundred on a branch of Kethes Creek for the transportation of himself and 4 other persons (Do., p. 29). On the same day, Silvester Tatnam patented 100 acres in James City "adjoining land of Thomas Smith" and assigned same to Smith.

In 1636, Walter Daniell patented 100 acres in Martin's Hundred "joyning westerly upon the land of Thomas Smith and south upon Kethes Creek," 50 acres of same being for the transportation of Thomas Jennings who was probably Smith's brother in law as will be shown later. (Do., p. 50.)

III. Arthur, third son probably came to Virginia (See later).

IV. Dorothy, only daughter, according to the Visitations of Essex for 1634 married Thomas Jennings of Dunmow. (Harleian. Vol. 13, p. 488.) He was related to the Wiseman family heretofore mentioned. His father Richard Jennings of Dunmow married Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Wiseman. (Harl. Vol., 13, p. 428.) According to Morant, "Richard Jennings in 1602 held the manor of Blauncestor Hall in Dunmore. Thomas, his son, held it in 1628 when his father died. Jennings, woolen draper of London, later sold it to Ashton." (Morant, II, p. 434).

Thomas Jennings belonged to the Company of Drapers in London. He was made free by Robert Jennings, woolen draper, February 18, 1606. The records of the Draper's Company show that Thomas "paid quarterings 1616-20; decayed"; later note shows "in Virginia." (American Colonists, Sherwood, 2nd Series, p. 102). The Essex Visitations show that Thomas Jennings was "now beyond seas 1634," so it seems that he must have been the Thomas Jennings who came to Virginia and was transported by Walter Daniell. (Harleian, Vol., 13, p. 428.)

The Daniels family seems to have come from the Blackwater River region of Essex, England, and was also related to the Wisemans. Morant says "John Daniel of Messing Hall, Essex, married Ursula daughter of William Wiseman of Great Badow. He was seated at Acton in Suffolk and bought the Manor of Butlers in Hinchford Hundred in Essex. One of his descendants sold it to Robert Jennings about 1690." (Morant, II, p.177, 310.)

Nothing further is known of Thomas Jennings as the James City records are destroyed. Captain John Jennings, who settled in the Lawne's Creek district in Isle of Wight and later became clerk of the county court, may have been Thomas' son, or of this family, as there are several "Johns" in the Jennings pedigree.

Arthur Smith who patented 1450 acres in Isle of Wight, September 10th 1637, from the circumstances and relationships above mentioned, was possibly the third son of Arthur Smith of Blackmore who died in 1622. Captain Stephen Smith, eldest son of Arthur of Blackmore, was born in 1602. Arthur Smith of Isle of Wight had a son Arthur born in Virginia in 1638. He was probably his second child as he was named second in order of children and was 7 years old in 1645. All of Arthur Smith's children were under age as shown by his will.

Arthur, the third son of Arthur of Blackmore was probably born between 1608 and 1612. This would make his age just about right for him to be the first Arthur Smith of Isle of Wight. This Arthur Smith has been represented as a son of Sir Thomas Smith, the celebrated treasurer of the London Company, (see 2.), but Sir Thomas' will is shown in the Virginia Magazine and mentions no son Thomas. (Va. Mag., Vol. 26, p. 267-69.)

Arthur Smith's grant in 1637 was "for a neck of land running S. E. behind Pagan Shore." In 1639 William Crannage patented land adjacent to his and in this grant he is referred to as "Mr. Arthur Smith." Arthur Smith, together with George Hardy, represented the county in the House of Burgesses, 1644-45. His will was made in 1645 and in it he bequeaths his son Thomas "my seal ring of gold." This ring is now in possession of a descendant, W. C. Whitehead, the present

sheriff of the county, and although somewhat worn, it is said to bear a design similar to the arms of Smith of Blackmore.

Arthur Smith's children were Thomas; Arthur; Richard; Jane, and George who married Ann \_\_\_\_\_ and was living in 1668.

A. Richard Smith - was born circa 1674, married Mary Blow (see Blows next), and died between the time his will was made on 24 February, 1712 and when it was probated on 20 May, 1713. Richard was a large land owner and active in the public affairs of Surry County, Virginia. He was closely associated with the Sessoms and served in the Surry County Militia with Nicholas Sessoms in 1687. In his will, he names sons Thomas, Nicholas, Richard, and daughter Elizabeth Boon. (It is to be noted that Elizabeth Smith first married Thomas Sessoms and then James Boon.)

## Section II

### The Blow Family

(Abstracted from **Historical Southern Families**,  
by John B. Bodie, Vol. VI, pp. 183 and 184).

The founder of this family was George Blow. He appeared as a headright of Henry Catelyn who was granted 500 acres in New Norfolk County February 18, 1638, for importing 9 persons into the colony. (C.P. 101) There were persons named Blow in Virginia at an earlier date but their relationship to George Blow has not been determined. A John Blow was granted 150 acres in 1625, location not specified (C.P. 2), and a John Blow appeared as a headright of John Senior for a grant on the Corotoman River in 1650. On August 3, 1663, George Blow was granted 600 acres in Surry County beginning on the south side of the bridge swamp "nigh the bridge that leads to Major Shepherds plantation" for importing 12 persons. (C.P. 508) On May 7, 1661, George Cook sold two cows to George Blow, the first mention of him in the Surry records. (O.B. 1652-1671). On Dec. 6, 1663, George Blow sold to John Bynum of the upper parish, "George Blow moving", part of a dividnt of 600 acres. The deed was witnessed by Margery Blow, Richard Smith, and William Marriott. (Ibid: 242). He soon sold another tract on the south side of the Blackwater to Rowland Hudson. This appears to have been part of the tract sold to Bynum. The deed was signed by "wife Margaret Blow" and witnessed by George Carter. (Ibid: 244). George Blow evidently left Surry, as inferred in the above deed as he does not appear in the tithable lists there in 1668. (Col. Surry - 183). It is not known where he moved. On Oct. 4, 1675, Richard Blow received a grant of 635 acres on the main Blackwater, formerly granted to George Blow, father to sd. Richard, by patent dated August 4, 1663, and descended to sd. Richard as co-heir to his father (P.B. 6-563). This would indicate that George Blow was dead by that date. He married Margaret, surname unknown, and had three children of whom there is any record. They do not appear as headrights and were doubtless born in Virginia.

#### Children:

- I. Richard Blow. He appeared on the tithable list in Surry in 1678 and in 1683 appeared



on the same as a member of the household of Richard Smith. (Col. Surry-190). On May 7, 1678, Richard Blow sold to Robert Caufield for 5,000 pounds of tobacco land on the Blackwater called "Blow's land" (O.B. 1671-1685-172). On Feb. 27, 1679, he witnessed a deed from John Bynum to Richard Jordan conveying land formerly purchased from George Blow and his wife Margaret. (Ibid: 246). In the same year Richard Blow, styled "of Blackwater" sold to Nicholas Sessoms 100 acres on Green Swamp. The deed was witnessed by Nicholas Smith and Sion Hill. (Ibid) Richard Blow died relatively young as on Oct. 21, 1687, his relict, Eliza Blow applied as administrator of his estate. (Davis, Surry Wills, 20).

II. George Blow, Jr. He appeared on the tithable lists in 1688. (Col. Surry - 194). He married prior to 1690 the widow of Thomas Barrow. (O.B. 1671-1693-773). He died intestate in Surry in 1717, when his estate was signed by Benjamin Chapman, Charles Savidge, and William Davidson. (Davis Surry Wills, 20). (For his son Richard Blow, see later).

III. **Mary Blow.** Mary, the wife of Richard Smith of Surry, d. 1712, appears to have been a Blow. She married (1) John Twyford, who was listed in the inventory of his father's estate as "one baby". She married (2) prior to 1678, Richard Smith. (V.H.G. 351). In 1694 John Twyford was a member of Richard Smith's household. (Col. Surry - 201). In 1685 Richard Smith, atty for Eliza Blow, wife to Richard Blow, appeared into court and relinquished her dower in a parcel of land given her by her husband to his brother George Blow, Jr. Also in 1685 George Blow appeared in court and acknowledged a gift of a heifer to Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Richard Smith. (O.B. 1671-1693-493) It is erroneously stated in H.S.F.II - 25 that Mary Blow married Thomas Barrow and after his death married Richard Smith as his second wife. George Blow, seemingly brother to Mary, married the widow of Thomas Barrow and in 1694, Edward Barrow, doubtless the son of Thomas, was a member of the household of George Blow. (Col. Surry - 200). Mary Smith survived her husband and signed the inventory of his estate in 1713.

## Section III

### The Wynn Family

(Abstracted from **Historical Southern Family**, by Mrs. John B. Boddie, pp. 267 and 268. It is to be noted that George Wynn was in Surry County, Virginia and moved with the Sessoms to Chowan County, N.C. This abstract is quoted here because it names George Wynn's children).

George Wynne, born about 1675, died 1751, in Bertie County, married Rose Bush, daughter of Martha and William Bush of Isle of Wight County, Virginia. (Grimes 58, 425) George Wynne bought land in Chowan County in 1718, and received a Lords Proprietors grant of four hundred acres in Bertie County, N.C. in 1720. (Bk. C, p. 34). George Wynne (spelled Wynne, Wynn, Winn, Wynns) served on the Grand Jury (1719), Queen Ann's Creek, Justice of the Peace, Clerk of Court, Bertie Precinct (1719-21) under the Proprietary Governor (Col. Rec. pp 275-285). He is mentioned as Captain George Wynne in 1727; from 1731- 1737 he represented Bertie County in the Colonial General Assembly (id.)

Children as listed in his will:

- I. John, eldest son, m. (1) Mary Boone; (2) Sarah Van Pelt. (See later).
- II. Benjamin, m. (1) Catherine, daughter of Catherine Booth and Henry Baker, III. By this marriage there were sons: 1. George; 2. William. After the death of his first wife, he married Margaret, daughter of Pherebe Savage and Col. Francis Pugh. (History of Perquimans Co. by Winslow, p. 360). He was Colonel of the Hertford Regiment in 1775. (Ros. p. 502). Judge B.B. Winburne of Hertford County in his "History of the Wynne Family" states the following:

"In Benjamin Wynne's will he speaks of Sir Watkin Williams Wynne, who leased a family mansion on St. James Square for a number of years to Lord Stratmore. It was built many years prior for a much older Sir Watkin Williams Wynne who was spoken of as the Old

Prince of Wales and who descended in an unbroken line from Rhodric Maur (Roderick the Great)".

Hertford Co. wills having been destroyed by fire, there is no way to certify this will which was undoubtedly probated there, but it is believed that Judge Winburne wrote this article early in 1900 before the Court House burned.

Burke, in his "Peerage and Baronetage", 1938, (p. 2635) states as follows: "(WILLIAMS-WYNN) Sir William Williams, 2nd: Bart., M.P. This gentleman m. 1st. Jane, dau. and heiress of Edward Thelwall, of Plas-y-Ward, Co. Denbigh, by Sydney, his wife, dau. and heiress of William Wynn, son of Sir John Wynn, of Gwydir, Carnarvon, created a baronet 29 June 1611, derived from Roderick, Lord of Anglesey (2nd. son of the chivalrous Owen Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales), who was representative of Anarawd, King of North Wales, and sovereign paramount of all Wales, son (with his brothers Cadelh, King of South Wales, and Mervyn, King of Powys) of Rhodri Mawr, or the Great King of Wales. By this illustrious alliance, Sir William Williams left three sons and two daughters. His son and heir was Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, 3rd. Bart., M.P. for Denbigh, who succeeded to the seat of Wynnstay, and other estates, under the will of Sir John Wynn, Bart., and assumed in consequence, the additional surname and arms of Wynn."

It is evident that this family of Wynn of N.C. is related to Sir John Wynn of Gwydir.

Children of Benjamin Wynne by his second marriage:

1. Thomas, m. Susanna Maney. He was a planter by profession; born, lived and died in that part of Bertie County which became Hertford County; lived near Winton at Barfield; served as a General in the Revolutionary War; Member of Congress 1802-1807 (Wheeler, p. 207). No children.

2. Mary, m. James Gregory, born March 10, 1752, son of James Gregory and wife, Polier Godwin, of Nansemond County, Va.; moved to

Gates County, N.C. James Gregory was Senator from Gates County and in the General Assembly of North Carolina 1780-1781. He died in 1802, leaving wife Mary and children:

- a. Ann, B. 1782, m. Dr. Charles Worth Harvey.
  - b. Margaret, b. 1785, m. \_\_\_\_\_ Dickerson.
  - c. Mary Wynne Gregory, b. 1787, m. Dr. John Burgess Baker of Gates County.
3. Margaret, m. General Isaac Pipkins, Gates County, who enlisted May 16, 1777, in Capt. Clement Hall's Company, 2nd Battalion Continental Army. Commanded by Colonel James Patlen and was in the Battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777; Germantown October 4, 1777; was at Valley Forge, winter of 1777-1778; Battle of Monmouth, June 29, 1778. His Captain, Clement Hall, served eighty-four months to the close of the War (Roster, p. 36, 608; The Continental Line, N.C. B. p. 165). (History of Perquimans County by Winslow, p. 360).

III. Joseph, m. Judith Penny.

IV. George, ranked as Major in Army and represented Hertford County in Colonial Assembly 1775-1776 (Roster, p. 498).

V. **Mary**, m. Cullener Sessoms. Children:  
1. George Wynne Sessoms, m. Katherine Elizabeth Roscoe, who had children:  
a. James Sessoms of Bertie County, b. 1772, d. 1858, m. M. A. Brown, d. of Charles and Emily Lusk Brown.  
b. George Wynne Sessoms (2), b. 1774, d. 1858, Hickman Co., Tenn.; m. Susan Walker, Maury Co., Tenn. (The Chalk Family Book by Mrs. Minna Chalk Hyman, p. 97-98).

VI. Sarah, m. Peter Evans; lived near Ahoskie, N.C.

VII. William, m. Elizabeth Deans, dau. of James Deans of Bermuda, d. 1757 (N.C. Wills, XXXV p. 88). In his will he mentions his wife, a daughter Penelope and a son then unnamed. He bequeathed his silver-hilted sword to his nephew, George Wynne, son of his

brother Benjamin. The coat of arms of the Wynne family is stamped on the seal of his will. William Wynne represented Hertford County in the House of Commons (1779) (Roster, p. 615).

## APPENDIX

### Research Aids

As stated in the introduction, this work is not all inclusive. Therefore, to assist those in completing their line, these Census Index and Tax Lists are provided:

#### North Carolina Census Index (1800-1850)

| <u>NAME</u>        | <u>1800</u> | <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>PAGE NO</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| SESSIONS, Joseph   |             | Bladen        | NC 121         |
| SESSIONS, Richard  |             | Sampson       | NC 520         |
| SESSIONS, Thomas   |             | Bladen        | NC 20          |
| SESSOM, Sarey      |             | Pitt          | NC 235         |
| SESSOMS, Isaac     |             | Sampson       | NC 531         |
| SESSOMS, Jacob     |             | Sampson       | NC 531         |
| SESSOMS, Mary      |             | Sampson       | NC 531         |
| SESSOMS, Mary      |             | Bladen        | NC 156         |
| SESSOMS, Solomon   |             | Sampson       | NC 531         |
| SESSON, Thomas     |             | Cartfret      | NC 216         |
| SESSONES, Samuel   |             | Cumberland    | NC 370         |
| SESSUM, Richard    |             | Edgecombe     | NC 240         |
| SESSUMS, Alexander |             | Edgecombe     | NC 239         |
| SESSUMS, George    |             | Hertford      | NC 714         |

| <u>NAME</u>      | <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>PAGE NO</u> |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| SESSUMS, James   | Edgecombe     | NC 239         |
| SESSUMS, John    | Edgecombe     | NC 240         |
| SESSUMS, John    | Hertford      | NC 702         |
| SESSUMS, Richard | Edgecombe     | NC 241         |
| SESSUMS, Solomon | Edgecombe     | NC 175         |
| SESSUMS, Solomon | Edgecombe     | NC 239         |

1810

|                    |            |     |
|--------------------|------------|-----|
| SESOMS, Isaac      | Rutherford | 153 |
| SESSION, George W. | Hertford   | 208 |
| SESSION, William   | Hertford   | 215 |
| SESSIONS, Elisha   | Hertford   | 211 |
| SESSIONS, James    | Hertford   | 208 |
| SESSIONS, John     | Hertford   | 208 |
| SESSIONS, Richard  | Cabarrus   | 145 |
| SESSIONS, Holloman | Edgecombe  | 41  |
| SESSOMS, Henry     | Cumberland | 264 |
| SESSOMS, Nathan    | Edgecombe  | 67  |
| SESSOMS, Samuel    | Beaufort   | 50  |
| SESSOMS, Thomas    | Cumberland | 263 |
| SESSONS, Elmore    | Halifax    | 119 |

1820

|                   |           |     |
|-------------------|-----------|-----|
| SESSIONS, Absolom | Columbus  | 48  |
| SESSIONS, Mary    | New       | 229 |
| SESSIONS, Thomas  | Columbus  | 55  |
| SESSIONS, Uriah   | Sampson   | 280 |
| SESSOMS, Jacob    | Edgecombe | 125 |
| SESSOMS, Joseph   | Edgecombe | 125 |

| <u>NAME</u>        | <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>PAGE NO</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| SESSOMS, Nathan    | Edgecombe     | 110            |
| SESSOMS, William   | Bertie        | 104            |
| SESSON, Henry      | Cumberland    | 166            |
| SESSOMS, Elizabeth | Edgecombe     | 87             |
| SESSUMS, Blake     | Sampson       | 302            |
| SESSUMS, Elizabeth | Halifax       | 164            |
| SESSUMS, Isaac     | Sampson       | 302            |
| SESSUMS, Isaac Jun | Sampson       | 302            |
| SESSUMS, John      | Sampson       | 302            |
| SESSUMS, Solomon   | Sampson       | 302            |
| SESSUMS, Thomas    | Bladen        | 140            |
| SESSUMS, William   | Bladen        | 140            |

1830

|                     |           |     |
|---------------------|-----------|-----|
| SESSOMS, William W. | Hertford  | 415 |
| SESSIONS, Isaac     | Columbus  | 24  |
| SESSOMS, Elisha     | Hertford  | 415 |
| SESSOMS, Eliza      | Edgecombe | 264 |
| SESSOMS, Harrell B. | Bertie    | 345 |
| SESSOMS, John       | Hertford  | 394 |
| SESSOMS, William    | Hertford  | 415 |

1840

|                    |           |     |
|--------------------|-----------|-----|
| SESSIONS, Stephan  | Brunswick | 230 |
| SESSOMS, Apgrad W. | Bertie    | 123 |
| SESSOMS, Catharine | Bladen    | 213 |
| SESSOMS, Francis   | Bladen    | 209 |
| SESSOMS, P. Dr.    | Bertie    | 125 |
| SESSOMS, Richard   | Edgecombe | 51  |

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| <u>NAME</u>           | <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>PAGE NO</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| SESSOMS, Stephen      | Richard       | 248            |
| SESSOMS, William      | Bladen        | 209            |
| SESSOMS, William A.   | Hertford      | 54             |
| SESSONS, Nathan       | Edgecombe     | 40             |
| <u>1850</u>           |               |                |
| SESSAMS, Asa          | Bertie        | 51             |
| SESSIIONS, Absalom    | Columbus      | 232            |
| SESSIIONS, Catharine  | Cumberland    | 56             |
| SESSIIONS, Dickson    | Cumberland    | 69             |
| SESSIIONS, Henry      | Cumberland    | 77             |
| SESSIIONS, Thomas     | Cumberland    | 71             |
| SESSIIONS, William    | Cumberland    | 76             |
| SESSIIONS, William J. | Columbus      | 232            |
| SESSOMS, Calen        | Sampson       | 453            |
| SESSOMS, Daniel       | Hertford      | 326            |
| SESSOMS, Gray         | Sampson       | 253            |
| SESSOMS, Isaac        | Sampson       | 391            |
| SESSOMS, John E.      | Sampson       | 452            |
| SESSOMS, Martha       | Hertford      | 298            |
| SESSOMS, Mary A.      | Sampson       | 403            |
| SESSOMS, Nancy A.     | Bertie        | 39             |
| SESSOMS, Owen         | Sampson       | 88             |
| SESSOMS, Raiford      | Sampson       | 351            |
| SESSOMS, Sampson      | Sampson       | 386            |
| SESSOMS, Surrell      | Sampson       | 453            |
| SESSOMS, William W.   | Hertford      | 326            |
| SESSONS, Gray         | Sampson       | 369            |

| <u>NAME</u>         | <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>PAGE NO</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| SESSONS, John W.    | Hertford      | 326            |
| SESSONS, Priscilla  | Hertford      | 328            |
| SESSONS, Solomon    | Sampson       | 359            |
| SESSONS, William H. | Hertford      | 338            |
| SESSUMS, David B.   | Cumberland    | 82             |
| SESSUMS, Henry      | Cumberland    | 83             |
| SESSUMS, Irvin      | Sampson       | 452            |
| SESSUMS, John       | Sampson       | 455            |
| SESSUMS, Nicholas   | Sampson       | 453            |
| SESSUMS, Rachael    | Sampson       | 452            |

1790 Census (First U.S. Census)

| <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>GIRLS</u> | <u>BOYS</u> | <u>SLAVES</u> |    |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|----|
| Bladen        | Culmore     | Sessions     |             | 1             |    |
|               | Isaac       | Sessions     |             |               |    |
|               | Samuel      | Sessions     | 3           | 2             |    |
|               | Thomas      | Sessions     | 7           | 1             |    |
| Edgecombe     | Amos        | Sessums      | 3           | 2             |    |
|               | Elizabeth   | Sessums      | 4           | 3             |    |
|               | Jacob       | Sessums      | 4           | 4             | 23 |
|               | Solomon     | Sessums      | 4           | 2             | 12 |
| Halifax       | Elinore     | Sessums      | 1           | 3             |    |
| Hertford      | Ann         | Sessoms      | 5           | 1             |    |
|               | Rachel      | Sessoms      | 2           | 1             | 6  |
| Johnson       | Ferreley    | Sessions     |             |               |    |
| Pitt          | Walter      | Sessions     |             | 2             |    |

| <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>NAME</u>       | <u>GIRLS</u> | <u>BOYS</u> | <u>SLAVES</u> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Sampson       | Isaac Sessoms     | 3            | 1           |               |
|               | Isaac Sessoms     | 1            |             |               |
|               | Isaac Sessums     |              |             |               |
|               | Mary Sessions     | 3            | 3           |               |
|               | Nicholas Sessions | 1            |             |               |
|               | Nicholas Sessums  | 1            | 1           |               |
|               | Richard Sessions  | 8            | 5           | 14            |
|               | Richard Sessoms   | 2            | 2           |               |
|               | Richard Sessums   | 2            | 1           |               |
|               | Solomon Sessoms   | 2            | 4           |               |

Notes: (1) Only the 1850 Census lists the names of all members of a household, other years show only the name of the head of the household and the number of male and female members by age category. (2) All spellings of Sessoms are included since often they are used interchangeably. (3) Complete pages of the Census can be obtained from: N.C. State Archives, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

#### Early N.C. Tax Lists

| <u>NAME</u>      | <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>YEAR</u> |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| SESSION, John    | Pitt          | 1764        |
| Walter           | Pitt          | 1762        |
| Walter           | Pitt          | 1764        |
| SESSIONS, Cullen | Pitt          | 1757        |

| <u>NAME</u>         | <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>YEAR</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Culmer              | Bertie        | 1757        |
| John                | Bertie        | 1757        |
| John                | Chowan        | 1717        |
| John                | Chowan        | 1721        |
| Joseph              | Dobb          | 1779        |
| Nicholas            |               |             |
| 700 acres           | Chowan        | 1721        |
| Richard             | Dobb          | 1779        |
| Samuel              | Cumberland    | 1767        |
| Thomas              | Brunswick     | 1769        |
| Walter              | Beaufort      | 1755        |
| Waltson             | Beaufort      | 1755        |
| SESSONS, Absalom s. |               |             |
| of John             | Dobb          | 1769        |
| John                | Dobb          | 1769        |
| SESSAME, John       | Hertford      | 1784        |
| SESSIONS, Benjamin  | Hertford      | 1779        |
| Coleman             | Bladen        | 1784        |
| Isaac               | Perq          | 1787        |
| John                | Hertford      | 1779        |
| Richard             | Sampson       | 1784        |
| Samuel              | Bladen        | 1784        |
| Thomas              | Bladen        | 1784        |
| SESSOMS, Isaac      | Sampson       | 1784        |
| Nicholas            | Sampson       | 1784        |
| Richard             | Sampson       | 1784        |
| Solomon             | Sampson       | 1784        |

| <u>NAME</u>       | <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>YEAR</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| SISSON, David     | Rutherford    | 1782        |
| John              | Rutherford    | 1782        |
| William           | New Bern      | 1779        |
| William Jr.       | Rutherford    | 1782        |
| SISSIL, William   | Cumberland    | 1755        |
| SISSON, Martin 2m |               |             |
| slaves            | Craven        | 1769        |
| William           | Granville     | 1755        |