

Notes of Ed Barnes on
The Stephenson Family
of Kirby Township of Northampton County

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The Stephenson Family of Kirby Township of Northampton County, North Carolina

There seems to be at least three distinct families of Stephensons that settled in Northampton County. The oldest branch seemed to have settled in an area of Bertie County that became Kirby Township in Northampton County in 1741 when Northampton was created from Bertie County. After 1800, a family of Stephensons located in the Pleasant Hill area of the County and another branch located in the Seaboard area. Possibly a fourth branch settled before 1800 near the Roanoke River on Bridgers Creek which is between Rich Square in Northampton County and Scotland Neck in Halifax County. The Bridgers Creek Stephensons sold their land in 1787 and there is no evidence that their descendants live in Northampton County.

All three/four branches *may* have a common ancestor in a John Stephenson who was born in the 1640/50s and resided in the Upper Parish of Isle of Wight, Va (Smithfield, Va). According to a friend, Becky Dozier, John was probably born in England or Scotland and came to Virginia as a young man, however she states that she has no proof of his origin. John married Elizabeth Edwards, a daughter of Charles and Mary Edwards of Isle Wight County. John died abt 1727/28 and in his will named his wife, Elizabeth, and children John, Abraham, Thomas, Charles, George, Mary and William Stephenson.

Abraham Stephenson, son of John Stephenson and Elizabeth Edwards of Isle of Wight County / Southampton County, Va, is believed to have moved to Bertie County/Northampton County around 1739. It is this Abraham Stephenson that I believe is the forebearer of the Stephenson family that settled in the Kirby Creek Township of Northampton County.

To further confuse one's understanding of the Stephenson family, Augustus Stephenson, a descendant of the Seaboard Stephensons, married Virginia Britt who lived between Severn and Murfreesboro. In his 1859 will, Elijah Britt gave his daughter, Virginia Britt Stephenson, a farm located about a mile from Pendleton toward Margarettsville. Augustus and Virginia Stephenson lived on the farm near Pendleton and had ten children, two of which married into the Kirby Township Stephensons. Ada Augustus, my grandmother, married Charlie Thomas Woodard the son of Starkey Woodard and Mary Jane Stephenson. Robert married Mollie Sikes, daughter of W. P. Sikes and Cordelia Stephenson. Descendants of both the Kirby Township Stephensons and Seaboard Stephensons families live in the Conway/Severn/Pendleton area of the County today.

The current spelling of Stephenson seemed to have prevailed over other variations. In many of the early public records you find the spelling to be Stephenson, Stevenson, Stephens, and Stevens and in some instances there are different spellings in the same document.

Becky Dozier and Lou King have been a great help to me in this effort and have given me many of their notes and citations. I owe much to Lou King who has abstracted many of the early Stephenson deeds and wills. And to Becky Dozier, who is currently writing a book on Northampton County families. Becky cites as some of her sources; Blanche Adams Chapman- Wills and Administrations of Isle of Wight Co, Va.; James Mark Valsame-Nimrod and Amanda Stephenson of Pleasant Grove Township, Johnson County, NC; John Brodie- Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight, Va and various deed and will books of Isle of Wight, Va. Jean Stephenson Stinson, who lives in Texas, has graciously provided me with information on the Stephensons who migrated to Arkansas.

The following notes are incomplete and may contain errors. It is my desire that anyone who might read these notes and finds any material error of fact or assumption that they would advise me of my error so that I might make a correction. The notes are incomplete and I am currently making additions and corrections. If you, as a reader, can help me to complete my Kirby Township Stephenson Family history, I would be greatly appreciative. I know there are many private sources such as family bibles and other private writings that would add to my effort.

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Chapter I

Abraham Stephenson, Sr. (-) and wife Ann (Maiden Name unknown) Father of Arthur Stephenson and grandfather to Abraham Stephenson, the Patriot

Comment:

Siblings: (Believed to be) John Stephenson (), Abraham Stephenson (), Thomas Stephenson (), Charles Stephenson (), George Stephenson (), Mary Stephenson (), William Stephenson ()

Children: Abraham Stephenson, Jr (Abt 1720-1791), Arthur Stephenson (Abt 1725 - 1792)

Real Estate:

Northampton County Deed Book 1, page 146- Recorded November Court 1761- **Abraham Stevenson** to son **Abraham Stevenson, Jr**- Deed of gift - Tract (acres not given) on south side of Meherin River, joining Miry branch and old county line. Signed Abraham Stephenson. Wit. Henry Sharp, Martha Cundal

Northampton County Deed Book 3, page 188, 1 Aug 1762, Recorded August Court 1762- **Abraham Stevenson, Sr.** to **Arthur Stevenson**- Deed of gift, Three negroes George, Sall, and Sedler. Signed Abraham (x) Stevenson. Wit. Abraham Stephenson, Jr. and Arthur Stevenson, Jr.

1 a. Abraham Stephenson, Jr. (Abt 1725-1791) and Rebecca (unknown)

Children: Charles Stephenson (), John Stephenson (), Winifred Stephenson (Titus Carr), Unidentified daughter (William Dardin) ().

Census:

1786 State: Andrew's District-(Believed to be in the Pendleton Area)-

Abraham Stephenson- Males 21 to 60 [1], Females all ages [2], slaves [14]

Charles Stephenson- Males 21 to 60 [1], females all ages [3], slaves [5]

1790 U. S.:

Abraham Stephenson- Males 16 and up [2], females [4], slaves [21]

Real Estate:

Northampton County Deed Book 1, page 146- Recorded November Court 1761- **Abraham Stevenson** to son **Abraham Stevenson, Jr**- Deed of gift - Tract (acres not given) on south side of Meherin River, joining Miry branch and old county line. Signed Abraham Stephenson. Wit. Henry Sharp, Martha Cundal

Will:

Northampton County Will Book 1, Page 427, dated 21 Aug 1788, Probated June Court 1791.

Abraham Stephenson.- Names sons, Charles Stephenson and John Stephenson, Daughter in Law- Dorcus Stephenson (husband ?) and granddaughter Polly Stephenson, daughters Winifred Car and grandson Robert Stephenson Car, (married Titus Car), Son-in-law William Dardin (wife ?), grandchildren Sarah, Elizabeth, Pricilla, and Abraham Dardin. Executors- William Dardin and Titus Car. Signed Abraham Stephenson. Wit- Thomas Boon, John Boon, Wm. Boon.

Chapter I

Abraham Stephenson, Sr. (-) and wife Ann (Maiden Name unknown)
Father of Arthur Stephenson and grandfather to Abraham Stephenson, the Patriot

2 a. Arthur Stephenson (abt 1742-1792) and Elizabeth (unknown)

Children: Mary Stephenson (Jones), Elizabeth Stephenson (McCone), Martha Stephenson (Vick), Mildred Stephenson (Smith), Tabitha Stephenson, Lucy Stephenson (Clifton), Abraham Stephenson, Unknown son (father of William Stephenson)

See Chapter 2 for notes on Arthur Stephenson (Died 1792)

Chapter II
Arthur Stephenson (abt 1824- 1792) and (Wife not Identified)
Son of Abraham Stephenson and

Comment:

Children: Mary Stephenson (Jones), Elizabeth Stephenson (McCone), Martha Stephenson (Vick), Mildred Stephenson (Smith), Tabitha Stephenson, Lucy Stephenson (Clifton), Abraham Stephenson, Unknown son (father of William Stephenson)

Census:

1784-1787 State Census, Northampton County, Capt. Bennett's District, page 15:

Arthur Stevenson: WM under 21 & above 60 [2]; WF all ages[2]; Blacks[6]

Abraham Stevenson: WM 21-60 Yrs [1]; WM under 21 & above 60[2]; WF all ages [2], Blacks [3]

William Stevenson: WM under 21 & above 60 [1]; WF all ages [1]; Blacks-[0]

Note: Arthur, son, Abraham and grandson William Stevenson were listed in succession providing strong evidence that they were of the same family.

1790 U. S. Census:

Arthur Stephenson: FWM 16 & upwards [1], FWM under 16 [0]; FWF all ages [2]; Slaves [6]

Abram Stephenson: FWM 16 & upwards [2]; FWM under 16 [4]; FWF all ages [3]; Slaves [4]

William Stephenson: FWM 16 & upwards [1]; FWM under 16 [0]; FWF all ages [4]; Slaves [0].

Note: Abram and son, Arthur Stephenson, were listed adjoining each other and grandson, William Stephenson, listed in general neighborhood but with 18 households between Arthur and William. In their neighborhood are listed two families of Deberrys with fairly large slave holdings. Could this indicate that they were living between Galacia and Conway around Deberrys Mill?

Will: Northampton County Will Book I , Arthur Stephenson, Dated October 26, 1792, Probated December Court 1792.: In the name of God, Amen. I, Arthur Stephenson of Northampton County and the State of North Carolina being at this time of a disposing mind and memory thanks be to God for it therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body knowing that it is appointed for all flesh once to die do make and ordain this my last will and testament in the following manner and form.

First: I will that all my just debts be paid.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Grandson William Stephenson five shillings to him and his heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Mary Jones five shillings to her and her heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Elizabeth McCone five shillings to her and her heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Martha Vick forty pounds current money of the State to her and her heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Mildred Smith forty pounds current money of the State to her and her heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Tabitha Stephenson forty pounds current money of the State to her and her heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Lucy Clifton forty pounds current money of the State to her and her heirs forever.

Item. I lend the labour of all my negroes and the lent of all the other part of my estate to my wife as long as she lives a widow.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Son Abraham Stephenson all the remainder part of my estate of whatsoever kind it be unto him and his Heirs forever.

And I do appoint my son Abraham & my friend Benjamin Boon and Jacob Boon, Junr., Executors of this my last Will and Testament revoking and making void all wills heretofore by me made

Chapter II
Arthur Stephenson (abt 1824- 1792) and (Wife not Identified)
Son of Abraham Stephenson and

Witness my hand and seal the 26th day of October 1789. Arthur (x) Stephenson
Signed Sealed and Declared in the presence of Winbourne Jenkins, Jno. D. Housemann(?), Jacob Boon, Senr.
Northampton County December Court 1892 The will of Arthur Stephenson dec'd, was exhibited into Court and
proved by the oath of Winbourne Jenkinson one of the subscribing witnesses thereto, at the same time Abraham
Stephenson & Benjamin Boone qualified Executors thereof.

A. Mary Stephenson () and Jones ()

B. Elizabeth Stephenson () and McCone ()

Note:

C. Martha Stephenson () and Vick ()

Census:

1786 State Census: Martha Vick -2 white females all ages. No one else in household. (Listed after Arthur, Abraham
and William Stevenson)

1790 U, S. Census - No Vicks listed

D. Mildred Stephenson () and Smith ()

E. Tabitha Stephenson (-abt 1795)

Other: Northampton County Court Minutes:

March Court 1793- "Ordered that Abraham Stephenson be appointed guardian to Tabitha Stephenson who is in a
state of insanity"

June Court 1794- "An inventory of the estate of Tabitha Stephenson who is in a state of insanity returned on oath
of Abraham Stephenson, her guardian"

March Court 1795- "Abraham, guardian of Tabitha Stephenson, returned on oath his account with her and ordered
to be recorded."

F. Lucy Stephenson and Clifton ()

G. Abraham Stephenson () and wife unknown

Children: Jenkins Stephenson (), Arthur Stephenson (-1823), Amy Stephenson (), Benjamin
Thomas Stephenson (1788-1873), Charles Stephenson (), John Stephenson ()

See Chapter for more information on Abraham Stephenson

H. Unknown son

Children: William Stephenson

Chapter 3
Abraham Stephenson (1770 to 1800) and Wife (Unknown)
Son of Arthur Stephenson (-1792) and wife (Unknown)

Comment: According to Gilbert Stephenson notes, Abraham served in the Revolutionary War. Research on this to be done.

Siblings: Mary Stephenson (Jones), Elizabeth Stephenson (), Martha Stephenson (Vick), Mildred Stephenson (Smith), Tabitha Stephenson, Lucy Stephenson (Clifton), **Abraham Stephenson**, Unknown brother (father of William Stephenson)

Children: Jenkins Stephenson (), Arthur Stephenson (-1823), Amy Stephenson (), Benjamin Thomas Stephenson (1788-1873), Charles Stephenson (), John Stephenson ()

Census:

1784-1787 State Census, Northampton County, Capt. Bennett's District, page 15:

Arthur Stevenson: WM under 21 & above 60 - 2; WF all ages 2; Blacks 6

Abraham Stevenson: WM 21-60 Yrs - 1; WM under 21 & above 60 - 2 ; WF all ages - 2, Blacks 3

William Stevenson: WM under 21 & above 60- 1; WF all ages - 1; Blacks- 0

Note: Arthur, son Abraham and grandson William Stevenson were listed in succession providing strong evidence that they were of the same family.

1790 U. S. Census:

Arthur Stephenson: FWM 16 & upwards - 1; FWM under 16 - 0; FWF all ages - 2; Slaves -6

Abram Stephenson: FWM 16 & upwards - 2; FWM under 16 - 4; FWF all ages - 3; Slaves - 4

William Stephenson: FWM 16 & upwards - 1; FWM under 16 - 0; FWF all ages - 4; Slaves - 0.

Note: Abram and son, Arthur Stephenson, were listed adjoining each other and grandson, William Stephenson, listed in general neighborhood but with 18 households between Arthur and William. In their neighborhood are listed two families of Deberrys with fairly large slave holdings. Could this indicate that they were living between Galacia and Conway around Deberrys Mill?

Real Estate Transactions: Northampton County.

Bk. 6. Pg 299, Deed of Gift, dated Dec. 3, 1773. Recorded Dec Court 1778 Arthur Stevenson of Northampton County to son **Abraham** , All my lands , copper still cap and worm, negro boy, Luke, girl, Lucy. Signed Arthur (x) Stevenson Wit: Winborne Jenkins *Note: Why would Arthur deed all his lands to his son at this point in time?.*

Bk. 15, pg. 49, Deed of Gift, dated Nov. 10, 1810, Recorded Jan 21, 1811, **Abraham Stephenson** to son **Jenkins Stephenson** , both of Northampton County, 125 acres, joining Patties Delight, Abraham Stephenson and Etherdred Martin. Signed Abraham Stephenson Witness Arthur Stephenson, Benjamin Stephenson.

Book 15, P. 86, Deed of Gift, dated Nov. 10, 1810, Recorded Jan 21, 1811, **Abraham Stephenson** to **Son, Benjamin Stephenson** both of Northampton County. 170 acres joining Arthur Stephenson, David Jenkins, Jenkins Stephenson, Etherdred Martin, and Abraham Stephenson. Signed Abraham (x) Stephenson Wit Jenkins Stephenson and Arthur Stephenson.

Bk. 15, pg. 87, Deed of Gift, dated Nov. 10, 1810, Recorded Jan. 21, 1811, **Abraham Stephenson** to son **Jenkins Stephenson**, both of Northampton County. 170 acres joining Abram Walls, Thomas Martin, Benjamin Stephenson, said Jenkins, Etherdred Martin, Patey's Delight. Signed Abraham (x) Stephenson Wit: Benjamin Stephenson, Arthur Stephenson.

Book 15, pg 88, Deed of Gift, dated Nov 10, 1810, Recorded Jan. 21, 1811, **Abraham Stephenson** to **Son Arthur Stephenson**, both of Northampton County, 170 acres joining David Jenkins, Elias Powell, Benjamin Boon, Benjamin

Chapter 3
Abraham Stephenson (1770 to 1800) and Wife (Unknown)
Son of Arthur Stephenson (-1792) and wife (Unknown)

Stephenson. Signed Abraham (x) Stephenson Wit: Jenkins Stephenson, Benjamin Stephenson, Winborne Newsom

Bk. 21, Pg 326- Deed of gift- Dated March 17, 1823, Rec Sept. 20, 1823— **Abraham Stevenson to son John Stevenson** for natural love and affection plus \$1.... all of my land which I am now possessed ...all of my negroes, names 10, and other property....3 beds of furniture,...all of my hogs, cattlesheep, one buffet, and all perishable property... Signed Abraham (x) Stevenson. Wit. James Deberry, John Suter.

Bk. 22, Pg. 8,- Deed of Gift- Dated May 20, 1823, Rec. , - **Abraham Stephenson to son Benjamin Stephenson** for natural love and affection and \$1..... 170 acres of which I am now possessed...one negroe named Daniel...Signed Abraham (x) Stevenson wit. Jerimiah Johnson, John Suter. *Note: Is this a duplication of deed in 1810?*

Will:

None located for Abraham Stephenson.

Northampton County Will Book I, **Arthur Stephenson**, Dated October 26, 1792, Probated December Court 1792.:
In the name of God, Amen. I, Arthur Stephenson of Northampton County and the State of North Carolina do make and ordain this my last will and testament in the following manner and form..... Item. I give and bequeath unto my **Son Abraham Stephenson** all the remainder part of my estate of whatsoever kind it be unto him and his Heirs forever. And I do appoint **my son Abraham & my friend Benjamin Boon and Jacob Boon, Junr.**, Executors of this my last Will.

Other:

Note 1. David Newsom Stephenson family Document. " According to the records Abraham, the great Grandfather, and Arter, the grandfather, were both buried near the family home in a private cemetery. That location, which is probably under cultivation at the present time of 1974, was on the road between Hedspeth Crossroads (between Conway and Pendleton but nearer Conway) and Galathia. At one time it was known as the W. P. Sykes' place--- probably inherited by Delia, sister of Mack (D. N.). This land was last owned by Viola and Carrie (daughters of Mollie Stephenson and Carrie Harris. Present Ownership not known."

Note 2. Gilbert Stephenson notes: not dated. " My great-great grandfather. Lived at W. P. Sykes place where Mr. Wheeler lives. Owned about 1,000 acres, and 20 slaves, Farmer. Was in the Revolutary War. Buried at home near the house. 200 yards north of the house. Now under Cultivation."

1. Jenkins Stephenson (-abt 1827) and Patsy Jenkins ()

Children: Sally Stephenson (), Burket Stephenson (), Charity Stephenson (), Matilda Stephenson ()

See Chapter 4 for notes on Jenkins Stephenson

2. Arthur Stephenson (-1823) and Penelope Newsom ()
And Cherry Davis ()

Children:

With Penelope Newsom; David Stephenson (1803-1862), Jesse Stephenson(1806-), Abraham Stephenson (1813-1857), Rebecca Stephenson (1813-) Winborn Stephenson (-1847), Jennie Stephenson (), Mary

Chapter 3
Abraham Stephenson (1770 to 1800) and Wife (Unknown)
Son of Arthur Stephenson (-1792) and wife (Unknown)

Polly Stephenson (), Betsy Stephenson ()

With Cherry Davis: Littlebury Stephenson, (), Tabitha Stephenson (), Penelope Stephenson ()

See chapter 5 for notes on Arthur Stephenson.

3. Amy Stephenson () and Thomas Martin (-1829)

Children: Stephenson Martin (1801-), Dorothy "Dolly" Martin (1803-), Sylvia Martin (), Polly Martin (), Marian Martin (1815-), Penelope Martin (), Amy Martin (), James Thomas Carter Martin ()

See Chapter 6 for notes on Amy Stephenson [Martin]

4. Charles Stephenson (abt 1781- 1836) and Priscilla Newsom (1797-)

Children:, Mary Stephenson, (abt 1819-), Sarah Stephenson (abt 1820-) John Stephenson (1825-), Martha Stephenson (1829-), Emily Stephenson (1831-), Charles Stephenson (?)

See Chapter 6 for notes on Charles Stephenson

5. Benjamin Thomas Stephenson (1788-1873) and Edith Jenkins ()

Children : Sara (Sally) Stephenson (1810-bef. 1873), Patience Stephenson (1813-), Jenkins Stephenson (1815-), Thomas Boone Stephenson (), Emiline "Emily" Stephenson (), Henry Stephenson (1828-), Edith Stephenson (1828-), Mary Ann Stephenson (1829-), Elizabeth Susan Stephenson (1830-), John Stephenson (1833-)

See Chapter 7 for notes on Benjamin Thomas Stephenson

6. John Stephenson ()

Children: None- did not marry.

See Chapter 8 for notes on John Stephenson.