

## Jesse Holleman, Patriot and Patriarch

**Jesse Holleman** (1735 ca - 1825) is a great-grandson of **Christopher Holyman** (1618-1691), the patriarch of most of the Hollyman (various spellings) clans in America. **Christopher, Sr.** arrived in Jamestown in 1650, as an indenture, from a merchant family in Bedford with no agricultural experience. He learned well and acquired a land grant of 1020 acres among other properties.

He fathered **Christopher, Jr** who parented **John Holleman (Sr.)**, the father of Jesse Holleman of this article. All lived in Isle of Wight County, VA (IoW) and had extensive land holdings in this Tidewater area of southeast Virginia.

We don't know much about Jesse's early life other than he was born about 1735-37. His mother was named **Elizabeth** but we know little about her except that she was named as heir and executrix of John's will dated and applied in 1751 when John died.

Jesse, at 18, inherited 200 acres of the original tract, beside the Mill Swamp and by the Blackwater River and it is safe to say he began farming the land as he grew into manhood.

He was educated well enough to read and write and knew basic math as well. This was important as in his later professions of surveyor and land appraiser many documents and other written works were necessary. Even later, as a Baptist minister, he needed not only to read and quote the Bible but to deal with the records and documents required by Virginia: as a colony and later a US state.

Jesse acquired other properties and expanded his farming, mainly of tobacco which leeches the soils so badly that land could be used only for a few seasons. They knew little about soil replenishment at the time. He and later his sons must have worked the farms themselves as later census records show him having only one slave. Although the slave population grew rapidly in Virginia in the 1700s, Jesse probably could not afford bonded servants in his early years. Tobacco demands skill to raise, cure and transport, and he may have been able to hire experienced help from among the numerous free blacks in IoW.

### What was Jesse like, what sort of man was he?

Farming demands dedication and hard work so he would have been self-directed and even driven. By learning new professions, he showed determination to succeed and prosper. He surely had high standards for himself and expected no less for his children. And they did not disappoint. A son, **Josiah**, became a deputy sheriff, member of the VA House of Delegates and a long-time commissioner of Isle of Wight County. A grandson, **Joel Holleman**, became a U.S. Congressman and Speaker of the VA House of Delegates.

The Holleman family was prosperous and prominent in the area among such neighbors as the **Wombles**, **Gwaltneys**, and **Cofers**. And in marrying **Charity Cofer** (m. ca

1760), he did very well indeed. He was held in such regard that he was co-executor of her father's will along with her brother and was trusted to value the land and divide it according to the senior Thomas' wishes.

There are records of his father John being a land appraiser, and likely a surveyor as well. Jesse had likely learned that science from John, as well as tobacco, even from a young age as they grew up quite early in colonial times. Jesse gained experience and became a highly-regarded surveyor, an exacting science even in that more "primitive" time. Property appraisal is more of an art but requires trust in one whose judgment and experience can be relied upon, for sale or inheritance purposes. There was little circulating money so property and the cash crop tobacco were the basis for wealth.

Jesse and Charity had three daughters and we have read that they had twelve sons but we can only identify nine. All the boys' names started with 'J': **Jeremiah, John, Josiah, Jesse (Jr.), Jordan and Jonathan** we know quite well but little or nothing about **Jeptha, Joel, or Jedidiah**; perhaps all three dying at a young age. And I have seen records that lead me to think **Joseph** and **Jonah** were two more.

Jesse and Charity remained in IoW all their lives but four of the sons migrated to Wake Co., North Carolina in the early 19th century and settled in Buckhorn District. Those four sons established the Holleman family here and many of us remain still. Jesse therefore meets the criterion as the Patriarch at the time of the American Revolution for our family in Wake. The four: John, Jesse, Jr. Jordan and Jonathan; we will discuss each in later articles.

Charity was in the 1810 census in Jesse's household but died before 1816 when Jesse married a prominent widow, **Frances Dews Stringfield** when he was about 70 years old.

And no, there were no more children but Jesse added another profession; as the minister of the oldest non-Anglican church\* in Virginia: **Mill Swamp Baptist Church** that is still a thriving congregation even today. There was a previous congregation that met at Burleigh Plantation but never had a church per se and MSBC grew out of that. When he was in his 80's Jesse again served the church as co-minister.

\* (The Church of England was the official religion and no other was officially recognized in Virginia until after the Revolution.)

### **And what might seem strange today...**

Jesse was also a distiller of spirits. It was common practice to have a toddy before dinner and Jesse made apple brandy: his favorite. It probably helped him live longer and surely made the journey more enjoyable. My how the Baptists have changed!

## **Jesse was a patriot in the cause of the American Revolution.**

As all able-bodied men were expected to serve in the local militia, Jesse would have served as a leader there, probably along with his teen-aged sons but never in the Continental Army.

## **Jesse did something equally important.**

In 1779 he was appointed Surveyor of Roads for IoW, building and maintaining roads used by the citizens, militia, and army for moving men and materials through the county. There were no major concentrations of troops there and no major battles.

However, and unfortunately, the British used the roads as well, making forays into the area burning, pillaging and thieving, always driven back by the local militia, who were far better marksmen than the Brits. Even when Col. Banastre Tarleton in July 1781 attacked and burned the courthouse destroying many records, his Green Dragoons were driven out when the militia arrived.

Jesse died in December of 1824 and his will was proved with an inventory on 3 January 1825. It has long been thought and written that he was buried in the Mill Swamp church cemetery but the land for that was given in 1830, five years later. It is almost certain that Jesse was laid to rest in the existing cemetery on the Holleman farm. Along with his father John and Christophers Jr. and Sr. Wooden markers of the time did not last and grandson Wilson's is the earliest in carved stone.

Jesse's service as Surveyor of the Roads is the most important basis for many DAR and SAR memberships - including my own.

## **Jesse Holleman was truly 'A Man Among Men'.**

By: J. Allen Holleman, Raleigh, April, 2020

# **The Holleman Family leaves Virginia....**

## **PROLOGUE:**

We tend to focus more on the males as they carry the family name forward and this was a male-dominated society. But we have strong DNA from the female sides of our families as well. Most women didn't have direct involvement in the affairs of state and even community but they were wise men who listened to their wives. Women, as adults, also tended to meld more into the families of their husbands than those they grew up in.

Jesse Holleman and wife Charity had a large family and four of their sons migrated to Wake County, North Carolina near the new state capital Raleigh. John, their 2nd son and 5th son Jesse, Jr. arrived in 1804/'05 and soon became respected members of the community with property deeds, serving on juries, witnessing wills and other documents. After both serving in the IoW militia in the War of 1812 Jordan came in 1815 and in 1817 youngest son Jonathan arrived.

All four married in Virginia and brought not only wives but many children as well. Descendants of the brothers and their progeny, with several cousins, through seven generations, remain in Wake County today. Though a number did move on when their land was no longer productive, and as property became more scarce and more expensive.

## **They were not the first of the Hollyman clan in Wake.**

In the first US census in 1790 there were already two: a Thomas Holliman, his wife Amelia and two children were listed. We have never been able to place them as descendants of Christopher Hollyman, Sr. and indeed they might not have been as I've found about 10 Hollymans migrating from England to Virginia that were not related.

There was also a James Holliman in that first census, it took a while to place him. He was an elusive antecedent we know as James Grantson Holliman that so many had tried to add to Jesse's sons but he was son of Samuel, a blacksmith, who was the son of Christopher Sr's. youngest, Richard. Samuel was first in Edgecombe Co., then in Johnston Co. and the homestead is on the National Register of Historic Places. James, born 1750 in Johnston, served in the Revolution and returned to amass a large farm that became part of Wake at its creation in 1772. In about 1800 he moved west and amassed huge lands in three counties in two states: Anson & Mecklenburg in NC and Lancaster Co., SC.

Another was Lewis Holleman, son of Jesse's brother, Jedidiah, who was also in Edgecombe and moved to Wake in about 1800. He married a widow, Penelope 'Penny' Lane Atkins, daughter of James Lane, older brother of Joel Lane, known as the "Father of Raleigh". They begat William Henry Holleman, who starting with one grocery store became one of Raleigh's wealthiest as a cotton merchant and owning several commercial properties as well as two large plantations.

We will concentrate now on the four sons who chose to migrate to Wake Co., North Carolina, leaving the legacy and property of 150 years and family behind. And on some of their progeny, mainly on those who remained in Wake but also some on the ones who migrated further and why. The Why is mainly about land and opportunity.

**We tend to view this as history but to them it was their present world.**

JOHN HOLLEMAN, the second of Jesse and Charity Cofer Holleman's sons was named for his grandfather and born 4 Feb 1766 in Newport Parish in western Isle of Wight County, VA on the family land by the Blackwater River. We don't know a lot about his early years but can surmise much just because he was the son of Jesse and much was expected of him.

He was schooled in the basics and could read and write and learned math as well. Most of his real-world education was from Jesse and seems to be mainly in farming, and 18th century land and farming economics. He doesn't seem to have taken up surveying, one of his father's professions. Yet we see he learned about land appraisal and trading. In 1796 he appraised the estate of his uncle, James Cofer.

About 1783 at age 17, he married NANCY WOMBLE, the daughter of Thomas and Rebecca Womble. It is most likely that in early marriage they lived with Jesse and Charity. Son Axum was born in 1784 and Davis in 1785. The family farm was well looked after but getting rather crowded. John inherited land from his grandfather THOMAS COFER in 1784 and he and Nancy likely moved there and farmed that as long as the land was productive.

The patent of Christopher Hollyman's original 1020 acres had been well divided by 1800, and there was little available farmland nearby. The Holleman boys, being adventurous sorts, needed to make their fortunes and futures as Christopher had done in leaving England for Virginia. North Carolina had become a draw for many, with a lot of available land and an emerging "civilization", especially in Wake County near the new state capital, Raleigh.

All eight of John and Nancy's children were born in Virginia and moved to North Carolina with them. That would have been after 1802 when the youngest, Edwin was born. Axum, the eldest, bought farmland from Mark Cook in 1804 and sold another parcel in 1807, both in Chatham County, NC (Next to Wake). If he moved south with his family that would place them at least that early. Axum was an independent sort and may have moved first and influenced the others.

Another likely influence would have been William Womble, Nancy's older brother who had been in Wake before 1800. We don't know if any had made visits back home to Virginia but they surely exchanged letters though the mails were slow.

Nancy's father Thomas Womble and brother Thomas, Jr. also came south about the same time, although it seems several Wombles had migrated up to ten years earlier. Her older sister Frances and her husband Frederick Taylor were in Buckhorn District, Wake County, North Carolina in the 1790s.

About the same time John's brother Jesse, Jr. migrated, or perhaps a bit later.

### **Founding a Church**

Jesse & wife Patience and John & Nancy along with her brother William Womble's family, and a few others, were instrumental in founding Shady Grove Baptist Church in the New Hill area in 1823. The 1872 map of Wake Co. still showed the church near the Hillsborough-Fayetteville Road, that became the New Hill-Holleman Road of today.

### **John becomes a Citizen of the Community**

John was on the 1805 Buckhorn District tax list, but not Jesse. The tax list is on property and was a poll list as well and indicates property owned, though I don't have records of lands purchased in this time period. This would indicate he had been here already with farmland as it took a while to get established as a citizen of the community.

Earlier I had written that I couldn't place John in Wake County solidly until witnessing an 1810 land sale, where his son, Jeremiah bought farmland from Richard Levens. Generally, witnesses to legal transactions, such as deeds and wills, were substantial citizens - landowners, so he and his sons were well established there already.

Between 1812 and 1848, John became quite a land trader as he is named on numerous deeds as buyer or seller. He also witnessed several deeds for others, and executor of several wills establishing that he was a respected and trusted citizen of the county.

### **John and Brother Jordan, Business Partners in the Land Business**

After Jordan's arrival in 1815, they are together on many deeds as buyers or sellers. Some of these involve others, often with an indenture involving loans of money either directly from the brothers or a loan from a bank.

John seems to have been a money lender also and some did not go well as he had to take property in settlement of some debts. It must have been difficult to foreclose on friends and neighbors. We don't know how many of these there might have been as only the problem loans were recorded by the county.

And we might think he wasn't particularly avaricious as he signed notes as security for others, promising to cover their debts. Again, only those that didn't go well were legally noted. Even though the debts were discharged by sale of property, it must have been a hassle to have to travel 25 miles to Raleigh - much of the day by horse, and then deal with the legal issues.

### **A Remarriage and Legal Troubles...**

John's wife, NANCY WOMBLE was on the 1840 census but died before 1844 when he marries another NANCY, nee UTLEY. the bondsman was Hinton Utley her brother. John would have been quite a catch to support her in her later years and he certainly needed a wife to cook and keep house for him. But, as we shall see, it may not have been a match made in heaven nor was it all it seemed.

The last land sale I have for John is an important issue, even after he passes away in August 1850, as you will see as the history of my 4th GGF comes to a close.

He is already selling off properties and transferring land to his son, Edwin.

Wake County, NC, Deeds, Book 18: pp. 584-585:  
10 Apr 1848.

John HOLLEMAN of Wake Co to Edwin HOLLEMAN of Wake Co  
for \$125, tract adj. Johnson Busbee, Allen Jones, Burwell Utley, containing 279-3/4  
acres.

Signed: John HOLLEMAN

Witness: John Bennett

Many of us are familiar with an abbreviated abstract of the will of John Holleman but it leaves out some wording that is significant and indicating some strained relationships, shown in italics.

Wake County, NC, Wills- Book 27: pp. 088-089:

Will of JOHN HOLLEMAN SR. of Wake Co, NC.

To beloved wife NANCY HOLLEMAN the interest of \$500, to be paid by executor during life tenure or widowhood then the \$500 to be divided among my heirs.

Wife Nancy HOLLEMAN to have all of property she brought to my house when I married her.

*It is my will and desire that my beloved wife NANCY HOLLEMAN have the interest of five hundred dollars as before named and what property she brought to my house as before named and no more. It is my will and desire that she have that much of my estate as her only shear (sic) in my estate in any way what ever=*

*To son JOHN HOLLEMAN \$1 as his only shear (sic) in any and all in any way whatever=.*

*To lawful heirs of son Jeremiah HOLLEMAN dec'd. \$1 to be equally divided among them all and as there only shear in any and all of my estate in any way what ever=*

*Furthermore it is my will and desire that my executor herein after named shall sell all of my property consisting of land, negros and perishable property... and furthermore collect all debts due to me - and all the moneys arising from the sale of all my property...*

...to be equally divided among children whose names follow: AXUM HOLLEMAN, DAVIS HOLLEMAN, EDWIN HOLLEMAN, PEGGY BRIGHT, BETSY WILSON, NANCY DUPREE.

...appoint son Edwin HOLLEMAN executor

13 Oct 1846.

Signed: John HOLLEMAN

Witnessed: R.M. Brown , John Bennett

Proved August term 1850 by R.M. Brown and John Bennett

John died in August of 1850. Nancy, likely thinking she would be able to remain in the home and on the property she had shared with her husband, and perhaps thinking she was to receive the \$500 stated, gave agreement of the will, by receipts to Edwin, son and executor. Then finding the ugly facts: that the interest only of \$500 was not enough to live on and worse, she was not to remain in the house nor did she inherit any property. It was customary then for a widow to be granted a place to live for her life or widowhood - unless she remarried: the widow's dower.

We could earlier only speculate as to how and why the will was written this way. We could only surmise, considering the specific wording of the will. It was very direct.

After the realization that she had a problem, through a lawyer named Saunders, she filed suit against Edwin and the other heirs, in the Wake Court of Pleas and Quarter. Claiming that her husband had a personal property estate of "\$8000 or some such large amount" (a LOT of money in 1850) and asking for 1/3 of all the real property he "seized and possessed" further that "through some improper influence, left her without a home".

Pleas and Quarter was an administrative court handling relatively minor cases and staffed by Justices of the Peace. And a panel of three JP's twice considered this case, in Nov. 1850 and in May 1851, decided that she was not entitled to additional properties but that she should be supported and twice awarded a year's supply of household supplies and foods paid for by the estate.

I have just found that the North Carolina Supreme Court heard the case (#6058) in December 1853 and declined to overrule the lower courts.

The lists of foods is informative in that it tells us what was normally available.

Meats were preserved by drying, smoking or salting. List of Nov. 1850: 2 barrels corn, 300 lbs. pork (most likely smoked or salted bacon and/or hams), 1 barrel flour, 20 lbs. coffee, 4 gallons molasses, 20 lbs. lard, pepper, spices and ginger, 1 bushel salt, 15 lbs. cotton, 5 lbs. wool, 10 lbs. butter, 2 gal. vinegar.

Again in 1851 the court awarded: 2 barrels corn, 200 lbs. bacon, 30 lbs. sugar, 25 lbs. coffee, 5 gallons molasses, 20 lbs. lard, 20 lbs. butter, 1 bushel salt, 4 gallons vinegar, pepper, spices and ginger, 15 bushels potatoes, 5 bushels Irish potatoes, a lot of vegetables. (I don't know if this meant a specified amount or grouping or just a whole bunch of vegetables or a plot of land for growing.)

Beef was not included, although cattle were raised for food in North Carolina, it was rather expensive. Chickens were very common and most everybody kept them.



It was presumed that she went back to live with her Utley relatives and we seemed to lose track of her.

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### ***And***

As so often happens in genealogy, new information comes to light that adds to and sometimes even changes what we knew earlier. And such is the case here.

After John's first wife Nancy (nee Womble) passed away he married another Nancy (nee Utley; 1792-1858) 19 Mar 1844. She was born in Wake, the 2nd child of Britain Utley (1765-1813) and Mary Huckaby (b 1770-) and had five brothers and five sisters. Her Grandfather was Capt. Jack Utley, Revolutionary hero.

John passed away six years later in August 1850 and very clearly limited what his 2nd wife was to inherit, via his will.

Nancy thought she deserved more and filed suit to get it. She was twice awarded a year's support in food and supplies but the will was direct enough that the courts determined she wasn't due any of the property.

I now understand that Nancy wasn't an innocent know-little. I now see her as a strong-willed, intelligent woman, a powerful person who didn't marry until in her 50's because she was an ugly duckling. It was by her own choice and it took a man as strong and able as John Holleman to change her mind. I'd bet they had lively conversations and discussions and I'd also bet he listened to her as well.

We had thought she was poorly treated in John's will and I speculated on the reasons. But he gave her back all that she rightfully owned. I now understand the reasons after finding her will and probate of 1858.

She didn't need John's house. Nancy Utley was a rather wealthy woman for the place and time. She already had a house, property, livestock and money. Nancy didn't cook or do housework, she owned slaves who did that for her. And I'd further think all of this was taken into account by the courts in their rulings.

I wouldn't go so far as to call her greedy but we can wonder if perhaps in marrying a wealthy older man with an idea of adding to her own through inheritance might have been an influence - as maybe indicated by the lawsuit. She likely already had some understanding that John intended to preserve his own wealth and pass it along to his own children, which was certainly understandable.

I also see Nancy as a good person who willed much of her property and wealth to her own kin, mainly three nieces whom she cared about. She devised the house for them "to live in during their singlehood as long as they should agree". Further she left to them her old "servant Issac to do for them" and even more, left funds to provide for him "should he get past laboring for support". How about that - a retirement plan for a slave!

Nancy didn't just go back to live with her Utlely relatives. She made her own way.

Nancy did not inherit wealth from her father - just one young slave girl. Her brothers got the property and money. She made it herself in a man's world and is to be admired for that.

I wish I could tell you how she did it - I can only see the result.

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### **Most of John and Nancy's Children Remained in Wake - But Not All**

Axum, an independent sort, was in the land business as well buying and selling properties, mainly in Chatham, until about 1819, when he moved west to Surry Co. He and Elizabeth 'Elisha' Cook were together raising several children but without a formal marriage. On finding that the NC legislature decreed that only children from a 'legal' marriage could inherit from the parents, married in 1838.

Davis remained in Wake until his passing in 1857. He married Anna Sugg from the Sims family. Anna's Grandfather was sheriff of Cumberland Co. during the Revolution. One of my great thrills early in pursuing genealogy was in holding in my hand the actual will - not just a copy - of my 3rd GGM!

Jeremiah m. Lavina Byrum and they raised 4 sons and 5 daughters, two of the boys remained in Wake: William and Merritt. The others migrated further on: Jordan to MS and Albert (another blacksmith) to AR.

John R. married Nancy Gunter: 2 sons, 2 daughters; she died 1829 and he then married Mildred Hartsog of Chatham, whose Hartsog family emigrated from Germany in the early 1700s. They had 2 sons, 4 daughters. In the 1860s moved to Arkansas.

Daughters: Peggy Bright, Betsy Wilson and Nancy Dupree remained in Wake.

Edwin, the youngest, as executor of John's estate had to deal with his step-mother's lawsuits. He married Sally Johnson and they had 7 sons and 5 daughters. Most remained in Wake but several scattered across America.

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J. Allen Holleman, Raleigh, 2020.

## **JESSE, JR. IS NEXT TO ARRIVE IN WAKE**

**JESSE HOLLEMAN JR.** was born about 1768 in Isle of Wight County, Virginia (IoW), the fifth son of **Jesse Holleman Sr.** (1735-1824) and **Charity Cofer** (1735-aft 1812), both from prominent and prosperous families.

The senior Jesse was the GGS of **Christopher Hollyman** (1618-1691) who had immigrated from Bedford, England in 1650 and later received a royal patent\* of 1,020 acres. Jesse Sr. had inherited about 200 acres of that from his father, John and was a planter himself and became a well-regarded citizen, Baptist minister, surveyor, and patriot in the American cause. He and Charity raised nine (or more) sons and two daughters.

(\*Royal in that it was granted by the governor who was appointed by the crown.)

Hereinafter the younger is known as Jesse and any mention of the father will be as Jesse, Sr.

## **JESSE BEGINS HIS OWN FAMILY**

Jesse and **Patience Pope** (1769-1830) of Southampton Co, VA were married 26 Feb 1795 in that county by the Rev. Ben Barnes, the bondsman was **Simmons Gwaltney**, his brother-in-law. **Patience** was born about 1769 to **Nathan Pope** and **Patience Everett**. They didn't wait long to start a family as their first son, **Zachariah** was born within a year in 1796.

The earliest official record we have found of Jesse is a tax listing in Isle of Wight, VA (IoW) of 2 Sep 1799. This shows he had farm property there at the time. In February 1805 he sold an 80-acre property in IoW and this seems to indicate that he and Patience moved to NC at or shortly after this time.

The main cash crop was tobacco and that leached the soils so badly a field was good for only a few years. It took several more years for nutrients to return naturally. They didn't have a strong understanding of soil replenishment at the time. Another issue was that the production of tobacco in Virginia was greater than even the strong demand in England, driving the price and profitability downward.

Most of the farmland in IoW, Surry, and Southampton counties was either owned and in use or depleted as theirs was and it seemed more effective to move on once a farm was no longer productive.

## **AND MOVE ON THEY DID**

About 1805 Jesse and Patience, following his older brother **John** and wife **Nancy** (nee Womble) in moving to Wake County, North Carolina settling in the southwestern district, known as Buckhorn. Both couples had children under 5 years old. Nancy's father

**Thomas Womble** and brothers **William** and **Thomas, Jr.** also came south about the same time, although it seems several Wombles had migrated up to ten years earlier. Her older sister **Frances**, called Franky and her husband **Frederick Taylor** were in Buckhorn in the 1790s.

Taylor is on the 1805 tax list with 65 acres joining the land of John Holleman on the same page. Shortly after that the Taylors moved to Tennessee where they remained. The Buckhorn tax records are missing from 1806 to 1808 but in 1809 Jesse is listed with 65 acres, likely the same land that he likely acquired from Taylor after the listing date. He also acquired another 100 acres in 1815 that shows on later listings.

Some Pope families also had moved to Wake but most seem to have settled in Johnston and the part of Cumberland County that is now Harnett.

### **JESSE BECOMES A SOLID CITIZEN OF THE NEW COMMUNITY**

In April 1806, Jesse was a buyer at the estate sale of Joseph Betts in Wake Co.

Jesse had learned more than farming from his father, Jesse, Sr., a surveyor also who during the Revolutionary War served as 'Surveyor of the Roads' for Isle of Wight Co. Also showing that he had become a prominent citizen, the younger Jesse was appointed to a similar position for Wake County on 16 Feb 1807, to "be overseer of the roads in the (place) of Willis Hicks, deceased, and that the same hands work on said roads as usual". He certainly would not have been appointed had he not demonstrated skills and experience for the position.

And further, on 15 Aug 1807, he was appointed with several other men "to view the public road leading through by the plantation of Robert Brown and to lay off a new road if necessary".

Wake is a large county and Jesse's home in the southwest corner was over 20 miles from Raleigh, another 25 miles to the northeast corner and over two hundred miles of roads even then. It took quite a long time by horseback or wagon to cover that territory.

Four years in his position with the county was long enough and the travel may have been taking too much time away from his farm, home and family and it probably didn't pay very well, so in the court records of 20 May 1811 it was "ordered that Britain Mims be appointed overseer of the road in the (place) of Jesse Holleman".

It seems that surveying was his primary profession. Good surveyors were in demand and highly regarded. We'll see too that he was also a builder.

His days in public service were far from over however and in May 1811 he was selected as part of a "committee to allot dower lands to Nancy Levins, widow of Jacob Levins, deceased, on White Oak Creek, 55 acres of a tract of 157 acres joining Moses Hicks". His

abilities as a surveyor were still needed.

\*(A widow's lifetime dower right is a 'life estate' of 1/3 of all real property of her late husband and unless specified by a will, the courts appoint trusted men of the community to decide which part of the lands go to her, the widow and which to the children. The dower does not convey title and goes to the children per will or probate, at her passing, no new deed was required.)

### **JESSE IS A BUILDER AS WELL**

On 17 Feb 1812 the Wake County, "commissioners let the contract for building a bridge across White Oak Creek on the road leading from Hillsborough to..." Jesse Holleman.

And later: "the Commissioners appointed to let the bridge across White Oak [Creek] reported to this court that the same is completed" and ordered that 23 pounds\* be paid for building this bridge by the County Trustee to Jesse Holleman".

(Even into the 1820s the courts still used pounds, shillings, and pence in referring to currency.)

Twenty-three pounds was a substantial sum of money, perhaps \$200,000 in today's dollars for such a project\* and it's fair to say he didn't build it alone. White Oak Creek was rather substantial, navigable by small boats, and was a tributary of the Cape Fear River. And this was on a main road so the bridge had to be very strongly constructed and expected to last for many years. As the contractor and supervisor, he hired competent workers for this major project.

On 22 Feb 1814, he was "drawn to attend" the next County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions\* for the May 1814 session, as a juror.

\*(similar to District Courts of today, meeting each quarter. Also, the court handled administrative duties, taxes, and estates issues.)

On 17 May 1814 he was appointed to serve on a grand jury along with 14 other men.

### **TAX RECORDS DON'T MAKE FOR VERY SEXY PROSE**

For several years those are most of what we have on Jesse and his children. He isn't on the Wake poll tax records in 1805 but his brother John is. Jesse may have been either still in Virginia or newly arrived in North Carolina. We know from the notations above that he was in Wake by 1806 and likely before as one year isn't quite enough to be recognized as a citizen upstanding enough to be appointed Surveyor of the Roads and serving on a jury.

The 1806-1808 Wake poll tax records have disappeared. The word poll is Old English

for head (...count) and was charged to male property owners allowing only them to vote, hold office or serve on juries. It was used to keep free blacks and poor whites from participating in the political process. The word poll has found its way into modern English in several references, mainly in politics still.

He is listed in 1809-1814 as having 65 acres and one slave (most likely a field hand) in Buckhorn District of Wake County. Afterward no slaves are listed. His boys are getting old enough to help work the farm.

From 1812-1816 records show he served on several juries, was a buyer at several estates sales, witnessed a number of wills and estates, and testified in court.

In 1815 he has acquired another 100 acres of land as the tax records show. We might presume it was acquired through one of the estate sales but I haven't found a deed or other record to tell us just how.

Interestingly, in 1817, he is again shown with just 65 acres. A mistake? No. On the line just below it shows Jesse paying the poll tax for Zachariah Holliman with 100 acres. As the poll tax is charged to males at age 21, he was most likely born in 1796 in Isle of Wight Co., VA.

The Wake tax listing for Jesse from 1818-1822 again show him with 165 acres.

In 1823 the tax record on the 100-acre farm shows the poll tax was paid by 2nd son, **Nathan**. This seems to be about age 24 rather than the more usual 21 as the later census records indicate he was born in 1799. He later moved to Georgia along with Zach and died after 1880.

## **FOUNDING A BAPTIST CHURCH**

Jesse & Patience and John & Nancy along with her brother William Womble's family, the Johnstons, and a few others, were instrumental in founding Shady Grove Baptist Church in the New Hill area in 1823. The 1872 map of Wake Co. shows the church near the Hillsborough-Fayetteville Road, that became the New Hill-Holleman Road of today.

By the 1830 census in Wake, youngest son **Ezra** (1803-1865/'66) and wife **Rebecca** (nee Womble, 1804-1870) are in Buckhorn near his uncle John and her aunt, Nancy. Daughter **Zilla** (1804-after 1880) and husband **William Barker** (1785-1862) are also nearby in Buckhorn District. And the two older sons have moved on. For more on the children see the addendum on "The Progeny of Jesse Holleman".

## **JESSE MAKES HIS TRANSITION**

Jesse passed away before September of 1829. It may have been rather sudden or unexpected as he seems to have not left a will. Youngest son Ezra was appointed

administrator by the probate court and he held sales of the personal property items. Much of that was in farming and building tools but surprisingly it seems kitchen and household items also that we would think Patience would have needed...,unless she was moving in with one of the children. She even had to buy the bed and some furniture, her spinning wheel, and even the Bible. I'd love to see that as it surely had a lot of family entries. Patience died later, in 1830.

\*NOTE BELOW on PROPERTY...

I guess nothing is safe when the courts get their fingers into it. Any wonder these folks had little use for or faith in government? And for some reason the final probate wasn't filed into court records until November 1831 - more than two years after his passing.

Jesse Holleman was certainly his father's son. Both were farmers, surveyors, and active in their communities without being directly in politics; both served as Surveyor of the Roads in their respective counties. Both helped found Baptist churches and while the younger likely led services and even preached a few sermons in the formative period of Shady Grove Church, the elder served two terms as the minister of Mill Swamp Baptist Church in IoW Co., VA. The first non-Anglican church in Virginia. Father and son were highly regarded by friends and neighbors and the community, evidenced by being called to serve on juries, to witness many legal documents, and to help evaluate and settle many estates. Both would have served also in the local militias though those records have been lost. Jesse Holleman and his brothers are all men that we can be proud of as ancestors.

\*NOTES ON INHERITANCE OF PROPERTY: Until after the Revolution the colonies were under English law and custom of Primogeniture in which the eldest son inherited all of the real estate. The intent was to keep family lands intact. In that, no wills or deeds were required as the property passed to him at the father's death. Further: unless specified by a will, laws of the time required all personal property subject to probate to be sold and converted to cash for the heirs and any creditors.

In 1784, North Carolina enacted a statute that provided for all the sons to share equally in the land and buildings. As the two older sons were in Georgia, this seems to have passed to Ezra, subject to the 'widow's dower', a life estate of 1/3 of the land (the 65 acres). That would pass to the son(s) at her death. This explains why we have no deeds to Ezra for the transfer of the lands.

Jesse Jr. was the son of Jesse (Sr.), my 5th GGF. His brother John my 4th GGF, so Jesse, Jr. was my 4th Great-Uncle.

### **The Progeny of Jesse Holleman, Jr.**

**Zachariah** and Mary Howell wed in 1821 in Wake and in 1822 migrated to Bibb Co., Georgia and by 1840 had three sons and three daughters.

**Nathan**, who never married, moved to neighboring Crawford Co., GA and had properties in several GA counties and died after 1880. They remained close.

**Ezra** married Rebecca Womble in 1823 and they remained in North Carolina and inherited his father's lands. They also had a farm in Chatham Co. in later life that was moved into Harnett Co. when that was formed in 1858. They had four daughters and son Nathan Pope Holleman disabled Civil War veteran. Ezra died after 1865 and Rebecca in 1870.

**Zilla** (b. 1805 NC) and William Barker, a veteran of the War of 1812, married in 1820 and remained in Buckhorn. They had five daughters and four sons, two of whom died in the Civil War. Zilla died in the late 1880s.

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J.Allen Holleman, Raleigh, 2020.



## **ANOTHER HOLLEMAN FAMILY MIGRATES FROM VIRGINIA TO NORTH CAROLINA**

"As kids we would listen, open-mouthed, to the tales Dad told us which his grandfather, JORDANHOLLEMAN, told him about the trip from Isle of Wight County, Virginia, the home of Jordan's father, JESSE HOLLEMAN. They cut trees, for there were no roads in 1815 to where they wanted to go. Trees and mud were a pest most of the way to Wake County, where Jordan settled on farmland in what is now Apex. He and then his son Wiley Wilkins HOLLEMAN became a stabilizing part of the community. They helped found Salem Baptist Church in 1840 and started a Masonic group." -**Terrine HOLLEMAN Woodlief**<sup>1 & 2</sup>

(From: HISTORY OF WAKE COUNTY, NC, 1983, pg.373: Elizabeth Murray Reid). The Masonic Lodge was the Western Sun that existed from 1817-1827.

Great-great-granddaddy may have embellished the tales a bit as there were certainly roads to, in and through Wake County as folks had been moving there for years from Virginia. But they might have needed to clear a path or two. I have found that Uncle Jordan (a 4th Great-Uncle of mine) was a bit of a character and we'll see he had quite a sense of humor.

**JORDAN HOLLEMAN**, born on 22 November 1782, a 2nd Great-Grandson of **CHRISTOPHER HOLLYMAN** who arrived in Virginia in 1650, settled in Isle of Wight County and amassed a farm of 1020 acres. Jordan's father was, **JESSE HOLLEMAN**, the patriarch of our Wake County lines though he never left Virginia.

As with all of Jesse's sons, Jordan had a basic education and could read and write and knew some math, as well. And he certainly had experience in farming.

### **JORDAN HOLLEMAN, FARMER**

We find him in the 1810 census at 28, with his own farm in Isle of Wight County, VA. (IoW). This would seem to be a larger farm than a young man would acquire and as parents Jesse and Charity were listed a census page away, it seems Jordan was running the large family farm.

That farm was most of the land Jesse inherited and when it was passed to Josiah, living in Smithfield in public service, his son Wilson ran the farm and with wife Ann Nicholson in 1830 built the beautiful house still occupied by Holleman family today in 2020.

Jordan seems to have liked having lots of folks around him as the 1810 census shows him head of household with another male 16-25, two females 16-25, seven other "free white" and two slaves. We cannot account for the others with any certainty as only the head of house was named before 1850. More than likely they were relatives, cousins perhaps as they were listed as part of the household. His younger brother Jonathan and bride of one year were listed two houses/farms away. I had thought the other young lady may have been a sister but they were already married themselves.<sup>3</sup> The other seven free persons would likely be field-hands living on the farm.

We have not found the marriage record but that census leads us to think he and **MARY SIMMONS**, known as Polly, of Southampton Co had married before the 1810 census,

accounting for the other young woman and they then began their own family. Mary Simmons was the daughter of Sprately Simmons and Ann Drewry. He was a sergeant in the 15th Virginia Regiment active in the American Revolution and was at Valley Forge in 1778.

In November of 1812 WYATT JACK HOLLEMAN was born and a major event in our country's history also began –

### **THE WAR of 1812.**

**Jordan Holleman** had been serving, as a sergeant in the 29th Regiment of the Virginia Militia, known as Ballard's Regiment after the commander, **Major Joseph W. Ballard**. His company commander was **Capt. Simmons Gwaltney**. In Jan 1813 the 29th came under the command of the US Army but an April 1813 poll in IoW, indicates they were not deployed elsewhere and remained at home with farms and families to protect from the evil Brits and as reserves.

The British warship, HMS Plantagenet, a 74 gun frigate, for several months lay off the mouth of the James River. Her very presence and occasional changing of position kept the 29th busy watching her movements. It must be presumed that this ship was to intercept any vessels sailing from the James. In June 1813 the British attempted a landing and were soundly beaten back by the accurate and well-placed fire from the excellent riflemen of the 29th who had almost been born with a rifle and developed great accuracy in hunting. With the aborted landing, the Royal Navy re-learned a lesson from the Revolution about how good the Americans were with firearms. Although the Plantagenet remained at her station, they never made another attempt at a landing. (From a history of IoW by Col. W. M. Morrison in 1915)

Capt. **SIMMONS GWALTNEY** was married to Jordan's sister, **SARAH** and also in the company were Jordan's brothers: **Lt. JOSIAH HOLLEMAN** the 2nd in command and **Corporal JONATHAN HOLLEMAN**. Along with them were several other **Gwaltneys** and **Cofers, Dews, Delks, Stringfield, Crocker, Gray**, names we know and are related to, a Who's Who of Isle of Wight County.

After the war, in 1815 Jordan and Mary decided to follow his older brothers, John and Jesse (Jr.) to North Carolina and first settled in western Wake County near them. This was close to Chatham Co. and land must have been less costly there as they bought additional properties across the line on the New Hope River.

### **THERE WERE NUMEROUS PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS**

His first property in Wake County seems to have been purchased from the estate of Stephen Mann in 1815. Over the years there are records of him buying and selling properties in Wake and Chatham, many involve his older brother John, as well. It seems they were partners in the land business.

One 1818 deed says, “Jordan HOLLEMAN of Chatham Co to Archibald Haralson of Orange County, for seven hundred and fifty cents, tract on the waters of New Hope, adj... containing 168 acres”. I have found a copy of that deed there is a tick on the left

edge where I suspect the clerk added a '\$' as he left off the word 'dollars' but that was not clear on the copy. But just adding the 'fifty cents' would have been a bit of a joke.<sup>7</sup>

He did sell 54 acres in Chatham Co. for \$216 in 1819 that was likely his youngest brother Jonathan's first property in North Carolina. That was prime land on a stream for irrigation, at \$4.00 an acre.

## **A SERIOUS GRAND JURY INDICTMENT**

{ Note: The cover for this document says - State vs. Jordon Holloman Forging a free pass for a slave }

State of North Carolina, County of Chatham: Superior court of Law- Fall Term, A.D. 1829 The Jurors for the State upon their Oath present, that heretofore, to wit on and before the first day of January A.D. 1829, a certain Thomas Bell was owner of a Negro slave named Willis, the said slave Willis being then a runaway and having left his master's service and that one Jordan Holloman, late of the county of Chatham aforesaid, farmer, on the day and year aforesaid in the County aforesaid, fraudulently and deceitfully did forge make and counterfeit a certain written pass, commonly called " a free pass" for and on behalf of the said slave Willis which said "pass" is as follows, that is to say\_ "State of North Carolina Chatham County this will certify that the Barrer Isaac Evans (an alias) a man of Color is of Free Parrantage, was born'd and Raised in the County afores'd and a person of a Morral Corrector, is about six feet high and served 'is' (his) apprenticeship under me as a farmer and was of age the 15th of December in the year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred and nine and the same Registered in the county etc.

James O'Kelly Test: Lesly O'Kelly which said "free pass: he, the said Jordon Holloman then and there delivered and caused to be delivered to the said Willis, slave as aforesaid, and then and there well knowing that the said Willis was a slave and then and there " a runaway" to the great injury of the said Thomas Bell and against the peace & dignity of the state.

John Scott Sol'r Gen'l (Solicitor General) Thomas Bell Junr.Pros. & Wit.Wm. Rencher, Geo. Williams, Allen Wilson, Henry Moore Sworn & sub. Sept. Term, 1829

C. J. Williams, C.S.C. A true bill - Jno Linth? Henth? Foreman

As the senior Jordan Holleman (who had properties in both Wake and Chatham counties) was a slave "owner" (with one field-hand), it's hard to imagine him creating a document that would have been such a violation of the laws at the time and an affront to his friends and neighbors.

Another possibility might have been a younger **Jordan Holleman**, the senior Jordan's great-nephew, grandson of his brother John and son of Jeremiah. This Jordan was b. 1810 in Wake. He would have been 19-20 years old and the 'pass' might have been the result of the impetuosity and rebelliousness of youth. His family also had holdings in both Wake & Chatham. Afterwards he moved on to Georgia and then to Mississippi.

I have found only this abstract, not the original court record nor the disposition. Note this line at the bottom of the 'bill': John Scott Sol'r Gen'l (Solicitor General) Thomas Bell Junr.Pros. & Wit.Wm. Rencher... The prosecutor was Thos. Bell, Junr. ?

A conflict of interest? That could have been why no disposition is found...?

I have seen the will of **Thos. Bell (Sr.)** above with some indications he was a reasonably decent fellow – if that can be said of anyone who held other humans in enforced servitude: slavery. He does state that he does not believe in separating husband and wife and further that their children are to be considered ‘property’ of the parents and to remain with them and are NOT to be considered as part of his estate and binding his heirs to these provisions.

### **JORDAN WAS ENUMERATED TWICE IN THE 1850 CENSUS**

His wife Mary had recently died and he seems at loose ends. As seen earlier, he seems to like lots of people around him and appears also to be moving around a bit. The census-taker was Stephen Stephenson who wrote with a beautiful hand but couldn't seem to even spell Smith correctly. He certainly never got Holleman right but I guess it works phonetically. Apparently, the folks being counted didn't see the pages, as all of the men could read and write and many of the ladies could as well by then and they all spelled Holleman when signing. Oh well.

First, Jordan is living with son **Wiley Wilkins Holleman** and daughter **Mary J** both unmarried with eldest son Wyatt next door. They were in the White Oak area of SW Wake, between New Hill and Holly Springs. Brother John and his sons Davis and Edwin were also nearby and near Hollemans Crossroads of today.

The second counting was with a family Stephen spelled as Wibbern and Wilbern and we see Jordan's sense of humor. This would be Henry Wilborn and wife Cynthia Fuquay. I suspect either: he was visiting on that day and was messing with Stephen when he claimed to be living there and gave his occupation as shoemaker – which he never was. Or they were farming on one of Jordan's properties. These folks had a distrust of government even then.

### **JORDAN MOVES AGAIN**

The census of 1860 finds Jordan listed with his youngest daughter **Mary** and her 2nd husband, **Israel Matthews** and their five children. This time he says he's a carpenter. While it's likely he built quite a few structures, there's no indication that he ever did it for anyone else. Mary outlived three husbands.

The latest deed I've found was in March 1849 where Jordan took a fair-sized farm of 57 acres in settlement of a debt and he found folks to work the lands as what would be known later as sharecroppers or tenant farmers.

By 1870 he was pretty much retired as a farmer and was living with his daughter **Susannah** and her husband **James Phillips** in New Hill. There are no children listed but in the household were two other ladies: seven year old **Eliza Overby** and **Jane Ricroft**, 49. Jordan at 88 was the head of household so this is likely his property.

In the rural South, people looked after each other, family or friends. Orphans and widows were taken in and found homes with folks they had long known. Older family members remained with family. This was community at its best.

**Jordan Holleman** lived his last twenty-five years without his beloved Mary and those must have been hard years for him but he lived with and among family and friends and being an active do'er, he surely made the best of the life he had. He passed away on August 17, 1875 at 93 and was surely missed by those who knew and loved him.

I cannot imagine Jordan, so used to deeds and records as he was, not leaving a will to specify how his estate was to be handled, but so far, we haven't discovered one. Unless he had already divided his properties: real and personal while still living and made any other provisions known but there should be deeds for those.

### **More on the progeny**

A daughter **Sarah** with 1st husband James Lynch had a daughter and a son.

Noted above is that Wyatt was born in 1812 and we had thought the eldest but we'll see below that was not accurate.

**Wyatt** named himself a carpenter in several census lists. What today we would know as a contractor - the businessman in charge. His later farm was more eastward between Cary and Raleigh.

Wyatt was a 'chip off the ol' block' in sense of humor and being maybe a tad rebellious. It seems Wyatt, when younger, was kicked out of his Baptist Church for desecrating the sabbath with gambling, horse racing, getting drunk and getting into a fight. He said it "wouldna have happened if I weren't drinkin".

But later, after repenting, he was back in their good graces, as he was a sent to interview a woman who wanted to join that church. They seemed kinda strict.

He was involved in the founding of the now still-called Town of Cary, in 2020, with over 160,000 inhabitants. He was a founder of the Cary Masonic Lodge and for 10 years was the Grand Master; his son Joel was the secretary. And he even led a new political party. But he wasn't the first-born.

**Eliza:** In about 2017 we found a will and probate of 1858 where she left property to her heirs, naming her siblings: the children of Jordan. Further we found by census records that she was born in 1810 or '11 in Virginia, after that census was recorded. She never married, kept a 'low-profile' and was shown in 1850 as Lissa, living with her sister **Dacey** and her husband John Mills.

**The progeny all remained in Wake County for another generation.**

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**J. Allen Holleman, Raleigh, 2020.**

## **Youngest son, Jonathan, arrives in NC in 1817**

We have less on Jonathan than the others but enough to give a historical perspective. He was born in Isle of Wight County in Tidewater Virginia (IoW), in 1787 and grew up on the family farm. By the 1810 census he is shown as having farmland of his own or perhaps working a part of his father, Jesse's land. This may have been the 100 acres than Jesse ceded to him in 1815, joining his own home farm and that of Josiah.

We have the marriage bond signed by Jonathan and his bondsman and cousin Thomas Gwaltney, dated 13 March 1809 and naming his bride as Nancy Cornwell. We generally use these as marriage dates but more likely the wedding took place shortly thereafter. The actual documents were kept by the ministers who considered them their own personal records and retained when moving on.

There has been considerable discussion and disagreement as to the first two children born to the couple but by piecing together records and notations, we have come to the conclusion that they were Dawson (b.1810) and Henry (b. 1813). It had made no sense that they didn't have any offspring before Barnett (b. 1817 in NC).

Dawson was named in grandfather Jesse's will as being promised a cow at 21. That promise was remembered but Jesse left \$10 to buy a cow in NC.

During the War of 1812, Jonathan was active in the 29th VA militia as corporal, with brothers Jordan as sergeant and Josiah, lieutenant and second in command to brother-in-law Simmons Gwaltney, captain of the company. They saw action in repelling an attempted landing from the British warship Plantagenet.

As son Barnett was born in NC in 1817, we know he and Nancy were there by then, and surely he had farm property soon after arriving, but we haven't found any deeds before buying a 54 acre tract in Chatham County from brother Jordan. It was on a branch off the New Hope River for irrigation. The price was \$216 - just over \$4 per acre.

A North Carolina Land Grant #1718 shows Jonathan acquired a land grant in Chatham in November 1833 of 114 acres on the Cape Fear River and Cabin Branch. Presumably for his service in the War of 1812. It would be unusual for a grant in one's home county. I only have the just discovered abstract and cannot verify due to the current Covid-19 pandemic closing the Archives.

## **Census records show locations and family size**

We saw Jonathan was in IoW in 1810 with a 100-acre farm; wife Nancy and baby Dawson under a year old. And with the move to NC we then have census records showing them in Chatham Co. in 1820 with two more young sons: Henry (b. 1813 VA) and Barnett (b.1817 NC) and in 1830 another son William C. (b.1824) and a daughter,

Charity (b. 1828) have been added.

Then in 1840, Jonathan is in Wake Co. with a farm between Apex and Cary with wife, Nancy, son William and two young daughters: Martha (b.1832-33) and Willia (b. 1834). He likely sold the Chatham properties to buy this.

### **Moving Within the Family**

Dawson after 1830 has a farm and is plying his trade as a blacksmith on the southern border of Buckhorn District with Cumberland Co. With the later creation of Harnett Co. in the 1850's he'll be 'moved' into that county. He marries Dilly Wood and they have two sons and three daughters. After she passed, he married a Rebecca (LNU) and they have four daughters and three sons. One of his sons, Alfred also is a blacksmith - often shown in early census records as a mechanic.

Henry is a blacksmith, in Chatham, also with a farm, marries Elizabeth Cotton and they have 10 children. In 1858 they sell the land and many belongings and move to White County, Arkansas to take a land grant that I'll explain shortly.

Barnett and his sister Charity move to Georgia where she marries the scion of a wealthy family, Oliver Wellborn. and has one son. Barnett marries Marilla Lester. Both spouses die young and Barnett marries Oliver's sister, Caroline, and inherits that land grant in Arkansas from father-in-law, Carlton Wellborn that he offers to his brother Henry. That farm is still in the Holleman family today.

This certainly indicates that these folks maintained close contact.

### **And This gets Interesting**

In 1858 Jonathan takes an ad in a Raleigh newspaper stating: his wife has, "left my bed and board without provocation or my consent..." and warning any who help her with legal action.

Nancy and daughter Martha move to Georgia in about 1858 to live with Charity. I suspect that Henry and Elizabeth made a longer journey to take them there. The time fits. Why would a woman in her 60's up and move - 'runaway' - two states away without some serious provocation? I further suspect that Jonathan had become so difficult to live with it seemed better to move on. We could suspect it may have been an alcohol problem. Nancy states in a letter that...

**Jonathan died in a housefire in 1860.**

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**More on some of their progeny.**

Martha married James McBride in Houston Co., Georgia.

Willia married James Welch in Wake and they also moved to Arkansas.

William Cornwell Holleman first tried Mississippi but soon moved on to Louisiana where he met and married a Cajun Gal, Esther Virginia Darce`. I have seen photos of their home in the bayous, accessible only by boat. It was an agreeable life and they founded a Holleman clan that is still there today. But some of their progeny moved west and settled in Texas near other Hollemans.

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**J.Allen Holleman, Raleigh, 2020.**