

JOSEPH ROGERS, Sr.

COMMENTARY:

This biofile of Joseph Rogers, Sr. is a highly significant foundation document for early Wake County, North Carolina and for several families of special interest to Allied Families.

Joseph had sons Aaron and Michael, who settled at what we now know as Wake Crossroads. At its beginnings, and for over a hundred years, it was known as Rogers Crossroads. Michael became the first sheriff of Wake County when that county was formed in 1771. Later about 1840, Kearney Upchurch, who headed a line in the Richard U. III/James U. VII sub-clan, would migrate from Dunn Township in Franklin County, NC to the Crossroads area. His 1840s era home still stands and a tract of his plantation has been designated as a park for the city of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Another son of Joseph Sr., Isham, settled in western Wake County where his descendants would intermarry with Yates and Baucom families – both of which are of keen interest to Allied Families. From their unions came our cousin and erstwhile collaborator, the late Jesse Ruth Baucom – a storehouse of family history.

Many threads remain to be drawn from the history of the Rogers family. A thread here offered in advance is that Isham produced a son, Green Rogers (1758 – 1842), who in all likelihood married a daughter of John Upchurch, III, who died intestate along the Wake and Chatham county border in 1795.

The Joseph Rogers, Sr. biofile provides an excellent insight into life in central North Carolina in the 1700s. As a companion to this, the archives of Allied Families hold the *John Rogers Genealogy*, a book written by descendant, Edward Maurice Rogers. In addition to details on early genealogies, Maurice details his own service in the White House of President George H.W. Bush. These details take on added importance for the writer as his granddaughter-in-law, Sarah King Heck, as of 2015, likewise served in the White House. Perhaps her experience, yet to be recorded, will add to the patina of history that Maurice has left us. -RPU 10 Sep 2015

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Transcribed by Michael Lynn Upchurch, a member of the Moses U. /Courtney U. subclan, from the original Biofile preserved in the Allied Families Archives, transcript received April 17, 2015.

(1) See Letter dated 11 Jan 1988 from Jessie Ruth Baucom to RPU

I. Joseph Rogers d 1752 (Northampton Co., NC)

A. Isham Rogers d 1804

1. Meedy Rogers b 1772 md Charity Gurley b 1772 d 25 Mar 1854 (Wake Co., NC)

a. Betsy Rogers

I. Edney S. Harwood md Green Henderson Baucom [2nd Cousins]

(I.) William Frederick Baucom

(A.) Jessie Ruth Baucom

2. Sarah Rogers b 1760 md 30 Jan 1780 (Johnston Co, NC) James Baucom

a. Levi Baucom md Elizabeth Yates

I. Green Henderson Baucom md Edney S. Harwood [2nd Cousins]

(I.) William Frederick Baucom

(A.) Jessie Ruth Baucom

(2) From: John Rogers Genealogy (56, Pg. 26)

JOSEPH ROGERS

Born Circa 1694 – Surry County, Virginia

Died February 20, 1752 – Northampton County, North Carolina

Married Mary Fargeson – Circa 1713 – Virginia

Born Circa 1695 – Virginia

Died Circa 1750 – Northampton County, North Carolina

Children:

1. John Born Circa 1714 – Surry County, Virginia
 Died September 8, 1783 – Wake County, North Carolina
2. Joseph
3. Aaron
4. Isham
5. Sarah
6. Mary
7. Reuben
8. Drury
9. Michael
10. Faith

(3) From: John Rogers Genealogy (56, Pg. 18 – 24)

18

WILLIAM ROGERS

Born Circa 1657 – Surry County, Virginia

Died May 10, 1727 – Surry County, Virginia

Married Mrs. Jane Owen – Circa 1679 – James City, Virginia

Children:

William I

Married Elizabeth Cartwright – Circa 1686 – Surry County, Virginia

Born Circa 1670 – Surry County, Virginia

Died Circa 1730 – Surry County, Virginia

Children:

- Joseph Born Circa 1694 – Surry County, Virginia
 Died February 20, 1752 – Northampton County, North Carolina
- Benjamin
Robert
Elizabeth
Mary
Sarah
Priscilla
William II
Jane

Will of WILLIAM ROGERS I, written 28 Jan 1725, gives to his son JOSEPH ROGERS five shillings.

(4) From: John Rogers Genealogy (56, Pgs. 27 - 34)

Joseph Rogers (1694 – 1752)

Pg 27

JOSEPH ROGERS, as we have shown previously, was one of ten children born to William Rogers. Joseph was born about 1694 on the Rogers' Plantation in the Lower Parish of Surry County, Virginia (later Sussex County).

Joseph Rogers' mother was Elizabeth Cartwright Rogers and his wife was named Mary Fargeson, daughter of John Fargeson, and he married her about 1713.

The ten children born to Joseph and Mary were: John, Joseph, Aaron, Isham, Sarah, Mary, Reuben, Drury, Michael and Faith.

Joseph and his family originally lived in Surry County at the place of his birth shown above. We do not have many records relating to Joseph in Virginia except the birth of some of his children. When Joseph moved to North Carolina about 1741, it was 106 years after his grandfather, John Rogers, arrived from England.

Before Joseph left Virginia the Colony had been established for over 125 years and seemingly Joseph and some of his sons had decided that the opportunities in North Carolina were favorable. North Carolina was overtly recruiting persons to their area during the early and middle eighteenth century.

We know from the Dunson – Rogers Genealogy referred to previously that in 1753 sons Aaron, Isham, Drury and Michael Rogers were all recorded in the Great Muster of 1754 for the French and Indian War and served in James Wooten's Company, Johnston County, North Carolina Regiment. We also know from this same source that Reuben and Drury Rogers moved to Georgia about 1773 and served during the Revolution in Colonel Elijah Clark's Regiment of Wilkes County, Georgia Militia. John Rogers, a grandson, also served in Georgia and John Rogers, a son of Joseph Rogers, and our direct ancestor, served as a sergeant in the French and Indian War. The heroics of this John Rogers will be told in the following chapter.

By the end of the seventeenth century Virginia had founded its first college, William and Mary, and established a style of living that included an aristocracy as well as a very substantial slave population. Virginia considered itself somewhat above the fledgling areas of Maryland and North Carolina. Actually, Maryland was the next colony developed in this part of the New World and North Carolina was established as a colony at some unspecified date in the second decade of the eighteenth century.

Virginia and Maryland were established as Royal Colonies with direct control of their affairs from the Crown in England. This was not the case with North Carolina.

King Charles II had incurred a great deal of indebtedness to certain English nobleman in England in the prosecution of a war in Europe. In order to repay his debt it was decided in 1663 to grant unto these few men the title of Lords Proprietors of Carolina, with large parcels of land included in the grants.

These Proprietors were granted almost absolute control over the designated areas of North Carolina.

The land given to the Proprietors originally encompassed what is now North Carolina and South Carolina and the western borders were described as being the South Seas, or the Pacific Ocean. Later, this border was reduced on the western side to the line established by the Mississippi River. Of course, when the Pacific Ocean was given as a western border no one had any real concept of how far west the

Pacific was from the eastern shore of the New World. At least eight of the Proprietors never even came to America to administer their office and are referred to as the absentee landlords. Those who did come never were really able to govern the rugged, individualistic Carolinians and on occasion the Proprietors themselves were run out of office.

This arrangement turned out to be very unrewarding for the Crown and on July 25, 1729, the King abolished the proprietorship rule and established North Carolina as a royal colony. King George II realized how inept or corrupt, or sometimes both, the proprietors were, however, North Carolina remained unruly and pretty much ungovernable.

This refusal to be ruled from England eventually led to a small war in North Carolina that was instigated by a group in the latter half of the century called the Regulators. We will have more information about this historical development in our chapter on Josiah Rogers who was a Regulator.

“Farming was the primary occupation of most men, and North Carolina engaged in extensive trade with the New England colonies and the West Indies as well as with the British Isles. In the coastal plain area something approaching the plantation system developed, while in the piedmont small farms were predominant on which the owner usually produced everything his family needed. In the east tobacco, corn, and sometimes rice were common products, while a flourishing naval stores industry also developed there.

“The tanned skins of wild and domesticated animals, and forest products in the form of shingles, planks, barrel staves and heads, as well as a few ships were also exported. Mills for grinding corn and wheat were set upon the swift streams of the piedmont by the Scotch-Irish and Germans.

“North Carolina during much of the eighteenth century was recognized as the “breadbasket” of the American colonies. Wheat was grown in the piedmont and ground into flour for shipment. Shallow-draft New England vessels, ideal for coastal trade, arrived every summer, soon after harvest, to transport the wheat and flour to market. In the fall they returned for corn and dried beans and peas. In the winter salt pork and beef, packed in wooden barrels, was sent out. Much of this produce was consumed in the northern colonies, but large portions of it went to the West Indies to support the slaves who worked on sugar plantations.

“Accommodations for travelers in the colonial period in North Carolina, as elsewhere in the south, were inadequate. Many inns and taverns were improperly supervised, and travelers often complained of the quality of the food, the scarcity of beds, and the presence of bugs and insects. In this respect the south suffered seriously in comparison with the north, but in the south a hearty welcome awaited the weary traveler at almost any house where he chose to stop. Living in isolation from their neighbors, sometimes miles away, families welcomed strangers, offering bed and board in exchange for fresh news and good stories. Taverns, or ordinaries as they were also called, met a local need in most communities. Here men gathered in their spare time for drinking and games – card and dice games, of course, but also billiards, bowling, and horse racing.”

One of the most famous taverns was Rogers Taverns located at Rogers Crossroads in Wake County. This area was developed after the death of Joseph Rogers in 1752 and will be discussed later.

“Art and music were important to these people, and their presence provided a cultural oasis. Frontier farmers sometimes mounted their horses and rode long distances to hear the Moravian church organ or to enjoy a band or an orchestra.

“The Assembly in 1715 passed a series of very progressive acts designed to undergird the government and to bring about stability and prosperity. The powers and duties of local officers were defined and a schedule of their fees for services drawn up. Although the Anglican church was established, dissenters were protected in their right to worship as they pleased.”

The notion one might have of frontiersmen in those days as being church-going types of folks is incorrect as it is estimated that less than twenty percent of the people attended a church. It seems that it was truly an era and a place where disdain for the establishment was the general rule. This led to a lot

of trouble but also to a lot of freedom.

While the Indian problem was pretty much resolved in Virginia by 1700 this was not so in North Carolina. Unrest “among the whites suggested to the unhappy Indians that a good time had arrived – perhaps the best and last opportunity ever – to rid their country of the invaders. Tuscarora Indians, who occupied much of the coastal plain, arose quickly and on September 22, 1711, began three days of slaughter that came very close to wiping out the whole colony. Men, women, and children fell indiscriminately beneath their bloody axes. The town of Bath and the old Albermarle area escaped only because a friendly Tuscarora chief in that part of the colony refused to join the fight.”

North Carolina was in a deplorable situation and Virginia refused to help. However, South Carolina furnished money and troops and in due time eight hundred Tuscaroras were either killed or captured and those who escaped soon left North Carolina.

In the year 1718 the problem of frequent pirate raids was alleviated when the pirate Blackbeard was killed and more than 100 other pirates were captured or run off. The colony then began to develop rather rapidly.

While Joseph first moved to Bertie County, North Carolina in 1741, on the south side of the Meherrin River, he was also granted 182 acres in Northampton County in 1749. This county was carved from Bertie and adjoins the southern border of Virginia. He sold this parcel to Samuel Sands February 10, 1752, ten days before his death.

The will of Joseph Rogers, dated February 18, 1752, was probated in February Court, 1752, Northampton County, North Carolina. He left five shillings to son John Rogers; 300 acres on Kirby's Creek to son Joseph Rogers, Jr.; a horse saddle and bridle each to sons Aaron, Isham, Reuben, Drury and Michael Rogers; five shillings to daughter Sarah Tarver; two ewes and a ram to daughter Mary Lowry, as a loom “on learning Faithey to weave well;” and six pounds to daughter Faith Rogers. He directed that the four younger children, Reuben, Drury, Michael and Faith should divide his remaining money and finish their schooling. He named sons John and Joseph, Jr., as executors. Letters of administration were issued May 18, 1752. On May 28, 1754, Joseph Jr., as executor sold to his brother John Rogers the 400 acre plantation in (Bertie) Northampton County which Joseph Rogers had bought (in 1741) from Moy and Phillips.

His sons, John and Joseph, Jr., continued to live in Northampton County. Joseph Jr., died there in 1792 while John lived on the family plantation in Northampton until 1763. The other five sons moved to Johnston County, North Carolina about one year after their father's death. Joseph's wife died about 1750 in Northampton.

Author's Note: All of the quoted passages in this chapter were taken from *North Carolina A History* by William S. Powell (New York: W. W. Norton & Co. Inc., 1977), pages 31, 33, 42 – 44.

Handwritten copy of Joseph Rogers, Sr. Will dated February 18, 1752

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN

I Joseph Rogers of Northampton County in the province of North Carolina being sick and weak of body but of sound and perfect memory do make this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following viz:

I give and bequeath to my son **John Rogers** five shillings. I give and bequeath to my son Joseph Rogers all that tract of land lying on Kirbys' Creek on both sides of the Great Branch it being three hundred acres.

I give and bequeath to my son Aaron Rogers his riding horse, saddle and bridle and twenty shillings.

I give and bequeath to my son Isom Rogers my riding black horse saddle and

bridle and casing.

I give and bequeath to my son Reuben Rogers my young grey mare and saddle and bridle out of my estate.

I give and bequeath to my son Drurey Rogers my young sorrel mare and saddle and bridle.

I give and bequeath to my son Michael Rogers my bay horse called Pinch and one Great bible.

I give and bequeath to my daughter Faith Rogers six pounds cash.

I give and bequeath to my daughter Sarah Tarver five shillings cash.

I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary Lowrey two Ewes and one Ram and one loom upon learning Faithy to weave well.

My will and desire is that my Plantation and Land belonging to it be sold to be best advantage by the discretion of my Executors empowering them to make a good title to the buyer and for them to pay my debts with the money. And my desire is that all my household goods and stocks of cattle and hogs and sheep be sold and after my debts, legacies, and funeral charges be paid, the remaining money to be equally divided between Reuben Rogers and Drurey Rogers and Michael Rogers and Faith Rogers, and the remaining money of my land to be best owed on schooling my before mentioned children: Reuben and Drurey to go to School two years and Faith one year and Michael as long as possible he can, and if any money for my land remains after schooling my children my desire that it be divided among my before mentioned children and in case one or more of my before mentioned children should die before they come of age my desire is the remaining money shall be divided amongst the rest of the before mentioned children.

I do likewise authorize and appoint my beloved sons **John Rogers** and Joseph Rogers the full and sole Executors of this my Last Will and Testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 18th day of February, 1752.

Signed, sealed and acknowledged
in the presence of Nathan Williams,
Ely Williams and Nathan Williams.

s/s JOSEPH ROGERS (SEAL)

Northampton County
February Court 1752

The within written Will was entered into Court by the Executors therein named and was proved by oath of all of subscribing witnesses thereto and at same time the executors were both qualified according to Law, which on Motion was ordered to be certified.

Test. L. Edwards, Clerk

- (5) See Letter dated 21 April 1993 from LouWayne NMN Rogers to RPU
- I. Joseph Rogers, Sr. [Will written 18 Feb 1752 (Northampton Co., NC)
probated February Court 1752] md Mary Fargeson
 - A. John Rogers b 1714 (Surry Co., VA) d 1783 [Will recorded 15 Sep 1783 – Wake
Co., NC]
 1. William Rogers md Elizabeth Fargeson
 - a. _____ Rogers
 - A. Edward Maurice Rogers
 - B. Joseph Rogers, Jr.
 - C. Aaron Rogers
 - D. Isham Rogers md Prudence _____
 1. Green Rogers b ca 1758 d 22 Jul 1842 (Wake Co., NC)
 - E. Reuben Rogers b 01 Nov 1735 (Surry Co., VA) d 1829 (GA)
 - F. Drury Rogers
 - G. Michael Rogers
 - H. Sarah Rogers md John Tarver
 - I. Mary Rogers md Matthew Lowery
 - J. Faith Rogers md James Wooters

[RPU = Robert Phillip Upchurch]