

Judia and Ralph Terry - Family and Neighbors of Coleman County, Texas

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This database contains all of our known ancestors and their descendants. It also contains inter-related families who have lived in Coleman County, Texas. Due to my recording method and my genealogy program, some individuals are shown as deceased, even though they are living.

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- *ID:* 14962
- *Name:* **Benjamin Greer**
- *Sex:* M
- *Note:*

'Benjamin Greer was a revolutionary war soldier of some reknown. He was born 9 February 1746 (according to a listing in the DAR PATRIOT INDEX, probably obtained from a family Bible record) and died 23 October 1816 (according to the same source, which also gives the name of his first wife as Nancy Wilcoxson). Benjamin was born in Albemarle County, Virginia and grew up in Franklin County (Virginia). Soon after obtaining his majority, Benjamin settled in the area that is now southwest Wilkes County, North Carolina. This was a part of Rowan County until 1777. No Greer's appear in the Rowan County records, which have been well abstracted, not on any of the surviving Rowan tax records in Surry County deeds either, although this is a period of invisibility in the land records of the northwest part of North Carolina. The area was a part of the Lord Granville District, in which the lord was reserved sole proprietary rights to make land grants. However at his death in January of 1763, a dispute arose among his heirs that proceeded into lengthy litigation. The result of this was that



Lord Granville's land office closed down and never reopened until the Revolution abrogated the property rights in 1778. The result of this was that in Wilkes County, where very little settlement had taken place before 1763, there were almost no established titles to land until 1778 when the change in government produced a rush to make land entries and thus protect the settlers' claims to land they had already occupied for a number of years.

'Benjamin probably moved to Wilkes County about 1770 along with other Greers and began clearing land, building

cabins, and starting farming, all in the region around Cub

Creek in the southwest part of modern Wilkes. We first find

Benjamin in Surry County on a tax list of 1771, on which he and his brother Aquilla appear. By 1772 his father John and brothers Joshua and John Jr. were also taxed there. Surry County Will Book 1 (page 102a, abstracted by Jo White Linn) lists among the purchasers at the sale of the estate of James Burk, 28 October 1776, Aquilla Greer, Benjamin Greer, and John Greer.

'Benjamin probably married just before or soon after his arrival in North Carolina, although a bond does not survive here. His first wife was Nancy Wilcoxson, and this another family which, like the Greers, appears to have come from Maryland.

'We later find in the Wilkes County Land Entry Book for

1778 - 1781, under the date 4 March 1778 (page 75):

'Benjamin Greer enters 200 acres joining Francis Hardgrave, including the improvement where on the said Greer now lives." The official entry was recorded with the Secretary of State under the date 7 June 1778 and the tract, on Cub Creek joining Francis Hardgrave, James Mitchell and William Smith, was granted 22 September 1785 (Wilkes #620 - photostat attached [in book]). The tract was surveyed on 8 October 1789 but the names of the chain bearers are not given. A few years later Benjamin moved the area that is now Watauga County, entering claims to tracts on the south fork of New River in 1781 and 1789.

"At the first court of Wilkes County in March of 1778 Benjamin's father, John Greer, qualified as a Justice of the Peace and Benjamin became constable in the district which is said to have been in the area of Moravian Creek (see Johnson J. Hayes, THE LAND OF WILKES, page 31).

'During the revolution Benjamin Greer apparently saw various services in the Wilkes County Militia, although

documentary record of this is scarce. One account of his most famous exploit, the rescue of CoL Benjamin Cleveland from the Tories in April 1781 near Meat Camp Creek, is related in A HISTORY OF WATAUGA COUNTY (Appendix B [in book]. The source of this account, in its earliest published version, is apparently Lyman C. Draper's KING'S MOUNTAIN AND ITS HEROES, 1881, photostats from which that relate to the rescue are also attached (as Appendix F [in book] as well as a few pages of supplementary material from John Preston Arthur's WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA: A HISTORY, 1730 - 1913 (which is Appendix E [in book]. This adds the tradition, preserved in the Greer family, that it was Ben Greer who fired the shot that killed Col. Ferguson at Kings Mountain. Lyman Draper unfortunately does not cite his sources for his account which, although probably factual, was likely based on hearsay evidence and also, perhaps, papers of Col Cleveland. Wilkes County Militia rosters do not survive, not are any original pay vouchers issued to Benjamin Greer extant. However proof that he did receive payment for militia service is contained in the books of the North Carolina Treasurer and Comptroller, Revolutionary Army Accounts. In Book A of this series (Vol. 40, page 221) is recorded a payment in 1782 (?) Morgan District, which included Wilkes County, as follows: "0879. To Bertjamine Greer for Service pr ditto -.16-." The ditto refers to the statement "Tor Service pr Pay Roll" a few lines above.

The account of Benjamin's rescue of CoL Cleveland implies that he had moved his residence further west 1 South Fork of New River near the present by 1781 to the Wilkes border, and in the area where Joshua lived. First, on 24 January 1781 he entered a Watauga - acres, apparently obtained from one Stringer, granted 9 July 1794 (#1121, photostat attached Greer later Chain carriers for the survey, 20 January 179 sons Wm. Greer and John Greer. This land is claim to 100

been four miles above Cleveland's plantation which was Field" where Gap Creek enters the South Foe ed [in book]. war Benjamin continued to increase his holdin 1, were his July 1789 he entered a claim to 100 acres at said to have was issued 9 July 1794 (Wilkes #1199 his attached [in book]. That he had actually mow at the "Old to this plantation is shown by the fact that he t. After the Creek land in 1790: "Wilkes County Deeds E igs here; on Indenture made this Twenty seventh day of A , photostat Between Benjamin Greer of the ... County of :d his Turner Hampton of the county ... aforesaid ... residence for ... one hundred pounds ... hath ... sold ... Turner Hampton ... a certain tract of parcel oi sold

two hundred acres Lying ... on the Waters of cub creek,
Beginning on a post oak and red oak sapling on a flat in
Francis Hardgrave line ... John Greers line by a Path ...
(signed) Benjamin Greer ... Witness: Rowland Judd, Isaac
Walker, Francis Hardgrave."

'Benjamine was a member of the Three Forks Baptist
Church in Watauga from 1790 to 1800 (according to A
HISTORY OF WATAUGA COUNTY) but had to leave
the church in 1801 because of his intemperance.

'Benjamine obtained one other tract of 100 acres on the
South Fork of New River, purchasing a warrant from Jacob
Holeman (sic) on 14 March 1798, which was issued to him 7
June 1799 (Wilkes #1590, photostat attached [in book]).
Benjamin's daughter Ann married Thomas Holman,
evidently a member of this family. Benjamine Greer is listed in
Wilkes County on the State Census of 1787 and the Federal
Census of 1790, and in Ashe County (created in 1799) in
1800. Sometime in this period his first wife died. In Wilkes
County on 26 April 1791 he married his second wife who is
said by the HISTORY OF WATAUGA COUNTY to have
Mrs. Sallie Atkinson Jones (although the DAR PATRIOT
INDEX states he [Benjamin] married secondly _____
Cutbirth). Mrs. Jones was the widow of Thomas Jones who
died of a wound received in the Revolutionary War.

'Benjamine sold the "Holeman" tract in 1800: "(Ashe County
Deeds A:176): This Indenture made this Seventeenth Day of
October ... 1800 between Benjamine Greer of Ashe County
... and Elizabeth Blackburn of said county ... witnesseth that
he the said Greer for ... sixty pounds ... hath sold ... one
hundred acres ... on New River, Beginning at a chestnut near
a branch ... granted to the aforesaid Greer by a State deed
Dated August the third ... 1778. (signed) Benjamin Greer.
Witness: Jacob Holman, James Propitt."

"He sold the bulk of his remaining lands to Philip Church on
10 August 1803 consisting of two tracts, one of 15 acres on
the north side of New River (B:349), and his 100 acre home
tract described in the following deed: "(B:348): This
Indenture made this tenth day of August ... 1803 between
Benjamin Greer of the County of Ashe ... and Philip Church
of the County aforesaid ... witnesseth that the said Benjamin
Greer ... for ... Three Hundred dollars ... hath sold ... land ...
beginning in his other line on a Red oak corner on a Ridge,
then South crossing the River Seventy Poles to a stake, then
with the River one hundred and sixty Poles to a Stake on the
Bank of the River, then North fifty West thirty six Poles to a
White oak, then North seventy Poles to a stake, then East

- one hundred and sixty poles to the first station, being one hundred acres lying on the South Fork of New River, being the tract of land Greer now lived on ... (signed) Benjamin Greer. Witness: William Greer, Jesse Greer."

'We know from A HISTORY OF WATAUGA(3A COUNTY ... (see Appendix B [in book] that Benjamin Ashe County for Kentucky, leaving many of his son s behind. This move is probably dated by the 10 August 18(B sale of the 100 acres on New River 'being the tract of la nd said Greer now live on ...". Benjamin made a will 21 Feb ruary 1816, proven 25 November 1816 in Green County, Kentucky (Green County Will Book 2, page 3, photosti it attached [in book]) in which he left property to his wife Sa irah and younger children. The ten older children were bequeathed only \$1.00 each and none of them settled in Green County.

'Benjamin Greer and his first wife, Nancy W icoxson, apparently had ten surviving children. The not altogether consistent evidence of the census suggests the y should be dated as follows: [list shows eleven children, with vith birthdates,

Benjamin appears to be duplicated] . Benjamin Greer and second wife Sarah had issue: [list o f six children with approximated census dates]." (OUR GR EER FAMILY HERITAGE, 1983, by Thomas H. Greer, 33 5 Minamontes Avenue, Half Moon Bay, California 94019, p ages 29 - .)

~~Benjamin Greer was the son of David Greer and Sarah Greer of the South Fork of New River. David Greer and Sarah Greer had~~

o
River.

f left

These

descendants in Watauga County. It appears tl hat most all the Watauga County Greers descend from Benjai min. The other early Greers listed in Wilkes County in the 17 90 Census all appear to have resided within areas included i n modern Wilkes County or Ashe County, rather than V Watauga."

(OUR GREER FAMILY HERITAGE, 1983 , by Thomas H. Greer, 335 Minamontes Avenue, Half Moon Bay, California 94019, page 27.)

~~Benjamin Greer was in the Revolutionary War and the command of Col. Ben Cleveland's 1st Regt. of King Mountain~~

There

L It was during
were

this time that the famous "Greer Hint" was con led with Benjamin a participant. One of his fellow sold iers stole Benjamin's tobacco from him. When Greer threatened reatened he would whip him for it, Col. Ben Cleveland rem

ronstrated with
him and urged strong reason against it saying I s men should
fight the enemy and not each other. **I'll** give hi m a hint of it
anyway," said Greer and when he met the tob acco pilfer he
knocked him down. "Greer's Hint" was long a byword in all

wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=capenoch&id=14962

that region. That saying "Greer Hint," somewhat modified to read "you don't have to knock me down with a hint" is still a byword with the family." (KINGS MOUNTAIN AND ITS HEROES by Draper, 1881.)

'Benjamin Greer was in Ashe County, North Carolina in 1799." (GREER FAMILY HISTORY, by Mrs. Ellen A. Fawcett, North Little Rock Arkansas. This was recieved by Frances Gosney Hoover, 5815 Gladstone Blvd, Kansas City, Missouri 64123-1517 in 1981, who in turn sent it to Ralph Terry in 1995. It appears to be a part of a collection of families, as it appears on pages 78 to 82.)

"Benjamin and wife, Nancy Wilcoxin, settled at Old Fields on the west bank of the South Fork of New River in Ashe County, North Carolina. About 1890 the old chimney was still standing where the old home had been. Later in years, he married a Mrs. Jones, whose husband had died from wounds received in the Revolution. Late in life, he moved to Green River in Western Kentucky, where he died." (Glen C. Roberts, 2097 Superior Avenue, South Charleston, West Virginia 25303.)

"They (Nancy and Benjamin Greer) went to Virginia; Rowan County, North Carolina when her family went, and to Kentucky when Daniel Boone went to Kentucky." (BOONE'S by Sarah Ridge Street Rockenfield (Route #1, Box 8, Sullivan, Indiana 47882, tek 812-268-5493), printed by Whipporwill Publications, Evansville, Indiana, 1987, page 357.)

"In the name of God, Amen. I, Benjamin Greer, of the County of Green, State of Kentucky, being through the goodness and mercies of God though weak in body, yet of a sound mind and perfect understanding and memory, do constitute this my last will and testament and desire it may be recorded as such. I most humbly bequeath my soul to God who gave it, beseeching ... (page was torn and taped at this point and part missing) ... and my body buried like seed in the ground, not to be lost, but here buried to remain till the morning of the Resurrection through Jesus Christ our Lord. As to my burial, I do desire to be interred, at the discretion of my Executors, thereafter named, who, I doubt not will arrange it with prudence. As to my worldly estate, I will, and positively order that all my debts be paid. First, I do bequeath to my two youngest sons namely Aquilla and Edmond Greer, the two tracts of land I now live on to be equally divided between them: and the rest of my estate to be equally divided between my three daughters: namely Sally, Elizabeth and Polly Greer; but my wife, Sarah Greer, to hold

the same in her hands during live; but the said children to have their equal part as they become of age or many. At the discretion of my Executors to which I do appoint my wife Sarah Greer, Aquila Greer and Robert Erwin, and do constitute the executors of this my last will and testament and trustees for my wife and children. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty first day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and sixteen. N. B. and I do will that all my other children namely, John, Rachel, William, Benjamin, Ann, Jesse, David, Sarnuel, Joshua and James have one dollar each out of my estate. Signed Benjamin (X) Greer, witnesses: Benjamin Bayly, Christopher Hinker, James (X) Lile" (Green County, Kentucky Will Records.)

"The genealogy of Benjamin Greer is also recorded in "A Factual History of Early Ashe County, North Carolina," page 160, as well as a typescript of his will. The daughter, Ann or Nancy Ann, is not mentioned in this typescript but is mentioned in the genealogy. She was probably left out in error." (Ralph Terry.)

(NOTE FROM RALPH TERRY: John M. Greer wrote GREER, A FAMILY RECORD about 1942, about this Benjamin. His publication is the one that somehow used a photograph of Duart Castle on the island of Mull, Scotland and misnamed it 'Lag Castle.' He used the assumption that his Greer Emily descended from the line of II(Henry Greer of Ireland, son of Sir James Greer of Lag. He admits that his direct connection to the Irish Greers "became; blurred" with the immigration of one of Henry descendant's, but still goes on this assumption. More recent research, done by the descendants of Daniel Boone, has shown that John M. was a descendant of James Greer, the immigrant, brother of Henry, whom John M. thought they descended through #1. (This Benjamin was a son-in-law of Sarah (Boone) Wilcoxson, sister of Daniel Boone.) This family is still related to Henry Greer's descendants, just not directly. The information about John M.'s ancestor, Benjamin, was correct, but John M. just plugged his data into the wrong line. Benjamin was a son of John, but not the John, who descended from Henry

i Greer.

Even though John M. had a bad assumption and a misnamed photograph, his family nevertheless be proud of the work that he did. Anyone who takes the time to research, write down and publish what they know of the Greer family is to be commended. I feel certain that some of our descendants will, some day, appreciate the work that each of us has done.)

Warren H. Houck, 1388 Wm.T. Calloway Road, Todd,

North Carolina 28684, tele: 336-877-5258; email:
whouck@skybest.com>, has provided much information
 about some of the descendants of Benjamin Greer and
 Nancy Wilcoxson, 2002.

- *Birth:* 9 FEB 1746 in Albemarle County, Virginia
- *Death:* 23 OCT 1816 in Green County, Kentucky

*Ancestry Hints for **Benjamin Greer**

1 possible matches found on **+ancestry**
Ancestry.com

Father: [John Greer](#) b: BET 1714 AND 1718 in Gunpowder River,
 Baltimore County, Maryland

Mother: [Sarah Ann Elliott](#)

Marriage 1 [Nancy Wilcox \(or Wilcoxson\)](#) b: 17 MAY 1745 in probably
 Berks County, Pennsylvania

- *Married:* 1767 in Rowen (now Ashe County) County, North Carolina

Children

1. [Rachel Greet](#) b: 31 MAR 1768 in Ashe County, North Carolina
2. [John Greer](#) b: 14 JAN 1770 in North Carolina
0. [William Greer](#) b: 21 JAN 1772 in Surry County, North Carolina
1. [Benjamin Greer](#) b: 14 FEB 1774
2. [Nancy Ann "Anna" Greer](#) b: 26 APR 1776
3. [Jesse Greer](#) b: 14 NOV 1778 in Zionville, Watauga County,
 North Carolina
4. [Vincent David Greer](#) b: 2 FEB 1781 in Ashe County, North
 Carolina
5. [James Greer](#) b: 17 SEP 1783 in Wilkes County, North Carolina
6. [Samuel Greer](#) b: 26 NOV 1785 in Old Fields, North Carolina
7. [Joshua Greer](#) b: 8 APR 1788 in Ashe County, North Carolina
3. [Thomas Greer](#) b: 3 OCT 1790 in Ashe County, North Carolina

Marriage 2 [Sarah "Sallie" Atkinson](#) b: 1740

- *Married:* 26 APR 1791 in Wilkes County, North Carolina


Children

1. [Sally Greer](#) b: ABT 1792
2. [Elizabeth Greer](#) b: ABT 1794
0. **1** [Aquilla Greer](#) b: 10 OCT 1796 in probably Wilkes County,
 North Carolina
3. [Mary "Polly" Greer](#) b: ABT 1798

0. [Edmond Robert Ervin Greer](#) b: ABT 1805 in North Carolina
1. [Thomas Greer](#) b: ABT 1810

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Any and all corrections or additions are welcomed. As many researchers have shared and added to this database, we credit those who have shared information in our notes. Feel free to use any of this information in your personal research, but please retain all notes, as thanks to those who have helped compile this data. Notes are always very important!

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