THE GREERS

**Compiled by Gary Hodges**

**Generation I**

Scotland; m **Mary Browne** (b 1604, Glencarin, , Dumfriesshire Scotland; d , Dumfriesshire Scotland) abt 1626, , Dumfriesshire Scotland.

**Note*:*** *DNA testing has not confirmed the connection between Sir James Grier of Capenoch and* **Sir James Greer (Grier):** b abt 1604, Capenoch, Dumfriesshire Scotland; d , Dumfriesshire *James Greer, the Immigrant.*

**Generation II**

**James Greer (Grear):** b 1627, Capenoch, Dumfriesshires Scotland; d 1688 Gunpowder River, Baltimore Co. MD; m **Ann Taylor** (b 1662, Gunpowder Farms, Hartford Co. MD; d 13 May 1716, Baltimore Co. MD; dau Arthur Taylor and Margaret Hill) 6 Jun 1687, Baltimore Co. MD

**Notes: 1.** After James death Ann married m #2 Lawrence Richardson; one son John Richardson b 1688 **2.** Ann also married #3 Oliver Harriatt, m 1711-1714, conflicting information on any children from this marriage)

**Child:**

1. **John G. Greer:** b 1688 Gunpowder River, Baltimore Co. MD; d 15 Sept 1752, Onslow Co. NC

**Notes for James Greer and Ann Taylor: 1.** James immigrated as an indentured servant from Scotland in 1674 when he was 47 years old **2.** He was a passenger on the Ship Batchellor out of Bristol England, landing in Baltimore, Maryland on November 2, 1674. His last name is spelled Grear on the manifest. He was brought to MD by Samuel Gibson of Bristol England. Dumphrieshire is a border shire in Scotland which shares part of its border with England. **3.** He was indentured to Charles Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore. Lord Baltimore was offering 50 acres to any individual who would come to Baltimore and help colonize the province. The 50 acres was "reimbursement" for 4-5 years of indentured servitude **4.** It is believed he left Scotland due to his being a Covenanter (a Presbyterian fighting the English enforcing Episcopacy during the "Killing Times 1623-1688) **5.** James and his wife Ann, inherited an additional 75 acres of land in Baltimore from her father Arthur Taylor when he died in 1687, shortly after they were married (James was in his 60s) **6.** They only had one son in 1688 and James died the same year. It is unclear as to whether he ever saw his only son **7.** Anne’s parents were Arthur Taylor and Margaret Hill. . Arthur and Margaret married abt 1660 in Baltimore Co. MD **8.** Anne’s father Arthur Taylor was born in England abt 1639 and died Nov 1728 prob in MD. Arthur was the son of John Taylor and Margaret (?) Taylor. Her mother Margaret Hill was born in Baltimore Co. MD abt 1640 and died abt 7 Jan 1678. Margaret Hill’s father was Roger Hill born abt 1618. The name of her mother is unknown but she was also born abt 1618.

**Generation III**

**John G. Greer:** b 1688 Big Falls, Gunpowder River, Baltimore Co. MD; d 15 Sept 1752 Onslow Co. NC; Married:

1. **Sarah Day:** b 1684 (1686?), Baltimore Co. MD; d abt 1758 Baltimore Co. MD; dau Nicholas Day & Sarah Lowe (Cox?)

**Married:** 4 March 1703/4, St. Johns Parish, Baltimore Co. MD

**NOTES: 1.** John was a planter and added substantially to the land he inherited from his parents **2**. John Greer was born between 1682 and 1688 in Gunpowder River, Baltimore County, Maryland. He died on 15 September 1750 in Baltimore County, Maryland. "John Greer, as his name is spelled in all of his records, was born in Baltimore County in 1688, as will be proven, and was a planter at the same time speculated in lands to a considerable extent. His first land consisted of the 75 acres which he inherited from his parents; his purchases were from 1718 to 1720 and his sales were from 1714 to 1748. After 1748, his name is not found in Maryland records. In order to verify the above statements, that John Greer was the son of James Grear and his wife, Ann Taylor, and that John Greer was born in 1688, copies of Court Records will follow **3**. "BOOK T. R. #A, fOLIO 333, TRANSCRIBED FROM LIBER 15, FOLIO 296-71: "John Greer to Walter Bosley: This Indenture, 4 March 1714, John Greer, of Baltimore County, Maryland, planter, has received rent from and sells to Walter Bosley 75 acres, being part of Arthur's Choice in Baltimore County, on the South side of Gunpowder River, called Bird's Run, beginning at a red oak... (The entire description will not be copied, because it is exactly as shown in the original grant from Arthur Taylor to James and Ann Greer.) "Be it remembered that on 4 March 1714, came Ann Harriott, mother of said Greer and Sarah, his wife, both of whom being privately examined by Luke Raven, Gent., one of the Justices of the City Court of Baltimore County, acknowledged all their rights of Dower to the within mentioned, bargained and sold land and improvements on the premises of the said John Grear, likewise acknowledged in open Court, according to the Act of Assembly. Signed John Stokes." **4**. "BALTIMORE COURT PRECEEDINGS - LAND COMMISSION, LIBER H.W.S. NO. 2, FOLIO 144, 1732 DEPOSITIONS: "John Greer testified of having been informed, some fourteen or fifteen years before, by his uncle, John Taylor, then Deputy Surveyor, that the beginning tree of Heathcoat's cottage was a bounded poplar tree which stood at the head of the first draft above Nicholas Day's plantation, near to an Indian cabin and that at some small distance from the place where the deponent now stands, being a bounded poplar tree standing near the head of a great drain on the third branch on the North side of the main falls of the Gunpowder River, there appeared to have been formerly made an Indian cabin." (This again confirms that John Grear's mother was Ann Taylor, since her brother, John Taylor was his uncle.) **5**. "MARYLAND HISTORY MAGAZINE, Volume 18, page 21: "In 1738, John Greer deposed that he had been bitten by a rattlesnake in the woods about 30 perches above the mouth of the Long Green River and futher, that he was 50 years old at that time." This places his birth as in 1688 **6**. BALTIMORE COURT PRECEEDINGS - LAND COMMISSION, LIBER W.B.M. VOLUME 16, FOLIO 147: "July 25, 1743, before the Land Commission held to determine the bounds of a tract called, Thompson's Tott, laid out for George Thompson. That thirty years ago, or there about, Mr. John Taylor, who then lived on the South side of Gunpowder River near the ferry and afterward went to Carolina, and if now living is seventy-eight, the said John Taylor shewed this deponent a bounded black and red oak which this deponent now sheweth unto us, fairly bounded by three trees... the aforesaid oak stands on the East side of a swampy stream descending into Momigold Run, now called Honeygo Run." (This is given to establish the birth date of John Taylor, as 1665.) **7**. ANN ARUNDEL & BALTIMORE COUNTIES - RENT ROLLS NO 1, FOLIO 230: "Greers park, 100 acres, rent 4 shillings, surveyed to John Greer, 3 February 1718, lying on the Great Falls of Gunpowder River in Baltimore County, patented to said Greer, 6 March 1732, Certificate A.M., #1, folio 213, Patent P.L. #8, folio 802. These same 100 acres were transferred to Mark Guishard, 5 April 1748, by John Greer and his wife, Sarah, did not join in the Deed. (T.B. #E., folio 715.)" **8.** "ANN ARUNDEL & BALTIMORE COUNTIES - RENT ROLL NO. 1, FOLIO 259: "Greers Improvement, 58 acres, rent 2 shillings, 6 pence, surveyed for John Greer, 24 January 1720, lying on North side of Main Falls of Gunpowder River. Certificate E.I. #3, folio 289. Patented E.I., #4, folio 167. John Greer sold these to Mark Guishard 5 April 1748. T.B. #E., folio 715. Wife did not join in Deed." **9.** "ANN ARUNDEL & BALTIMORE COUNTIES - CERTIFICATE E.I. #3, FOLIO 443: Greer's Discovery, 92 acres, rent 0-3-8 1/2, surveyed to John Greer 24 January 1720, lying on North side of Main Falls of Gunpowder River. Patented to Thomas Greer, Liber E.L. #4, folio 410. John Greer transferred these 92 acres to Mark Guishard 2 March 1747, wife did not join in Deed. It is here assumed that Sarah Greer died following the birth of her twin sons, Benjamin and Joseph Greer, born 6 January 1727 **10**. "Consulted Maryland records fail to disclose Wills for either John Greer or his wife, Sarah, so the names of their children have had to (be) established through records to be quoted in each case. Before listing their names, because this is a controvercial question, the following references are given: **11.** "SCOTCH - IRISH SETTLEMENT IN VIRGINIA, (AUGUSTA COUNTY RECORDS, page 275) VOLUME 3, page 18, by Lyman C. Chalkley.: "15 September 1750 - John Greer's Noncupative Will: Debts to be paid to William Long, William Neil, John Kennedy and Nathaniel Patterson; son, Alexander, to be bound to a trade; one child to be bound to John Mitchell; one child to be bound to S. D. (sic, evidently Samuel Doak); oldest girl to go to some decent woman to learn housewifery." Executors: John Mitchell and Samuel Doak. Teste: James Corwin, John Mitchell, Samuel Doak, Francis Beatey." IBID. VOLUME 3, PAGE 446: "22 September 1750, John Greer's Vendue: Sold to John Lockhart, John Roseman, Sarah Lynn, John Teat, John Mitchell, Chilpa Kelley, George Buckingham, Thomas Scott, Jane Lynn, Thomas Teat and Francis Beatey. John New." IBID. PAGE 26 (AUGUSTA COUNTY RECORD, page 447): "24 August 1752, John Mitchell and Samuel Doage (sic.) gave bond as guardians apointed for Rebecca, Alexander, Martha and Mary Greer, orphan children of John Greer, deceased, with Surety, Francis Beatey." IBID. VOLUME 1, PAGE 66 (AUGUSTA COUNTY ORDER BOOK, NO. 4, PAGE 331.): "Samuel Doak and John Mitchell, guardians for the orphan children of John Greer, made final settlement, 22 November 1754." **12**. "It is not known upon what date John Greer went to Virginia, presumably to be nearer his older children. While proof is lacking, it is thought the documents, above quoted, apply to the John Greer, born in Baltimore County, Maryland in 1688, who must have married again, some time after the death of his first wife, Sarah, assumed to have died after January 1727, and by his second marriage became the father of four additional children: Rebecca, Alexander, Martha and Mary Greer. His second wife must have predeceased him, since her name was not mentioned in his Will and his children were spoken of as orphans. The fact that his estate was settled 22 November 1754, it is obvious that his youngest child, Mary, had reached maturity, 18 for a daughter, or at marriage, at or before that date. Accordingly, her birth date would be about 1736; Martha in 1734; Alexander in 1732 and Rebecca in 1730, close to three years after the death of Sarah, his first wife. It must be remembered that in Augusta County, Virginia, at that time, there many others by name of Greer, such as those from Andrew Greer to Tennessee and others from The Carolinas. It is very difficult to seggregate them, John Greer, born in 1688, would have been but sixty-two years old at his death, in 1750. This sketch is based on the above conclusion and will credit John Greer with children, thirteen: Their names will follow:" [children and descendants listed.] (GREGOR, MacGREGOR, MacGHEE, MAGRUDER, GRIERSON, GRIER, GREER --- A HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN OF THE ABOVE FAMILIES AND MANY OF THEIR DESCENDANTS, 1954, compiled by Robert M. Torrence, A.B., F.G.S.P., F.I.A.G., 110 Edgevale Road Baltimore 10, Maryland, pages 144 - 148 .) **13.** (NOTE FROM RALPH TERRY: The following sources are mentioned by Bell (others?) Rent Roll #1 folio 259; Book E.L. #4 folio 410; General information about John Greer as per J. B. Bell in GREER KINSMEN from Mrs. Vivian G. White, expert on this family, 1970; Marge Hankins, 1986, who lists Gayle Holmes, Ann Hughes Farnsworth, Margretta Schrader, Dr. Benjamin Cartwright and research in Kentucky and Missouri as her sources. Carolyn Beal lists her sources as T. N. Greer; Sylvester Greer; Mary Weaver Garcia; Darlene Leese (T Bar Ranch, Eldorado, Oklahoma 73537); and the Mormon Records submitted by Ellen Greer Rees.) **14**. "Many compilations on the Greer family show Sarah (Day) Greer's death date from 1742 to 1747. This date seems to have been based on Sarah not signing any deed releases during 1747 and 1748. However, a logical scenerio could be as follows: According to the vestry books, in Baltimore County, "John Greer was admonished for co-habitating unlawfully with one Chloe Jones (not dated)."" (ROYAL HERITAGE OF THE GREERS by Carolina Beal, 1985, page 33.) (NOTE FROM RALPH TERRY: Sarah, John's wife,apparently, separated from him and went to live with her son, Aquilla at the Chilimara Plantation (as seen by a land lease record found under Aquilla Greer). John was still in Baltimore County, Maryland where he had four additional children, possibly by Chloe Jones. John later moved to Augusta County, Virginia. His last four children were possibly born out of wedlock, as they were not accepted by John's older children and were bound out to pay John's debts after his death. As some sources show Obadiah Pritchett to be Sarah's second husband, rather than her first husband, she could have married him after separating from John.) **15**. John Greer and Sarah Day were married on 4 March 1704 in St John's Parish, Joppa, Baltimore County, Maryland. Sarah Day (daughter of Nicholas Day and Sarah Lowe) was born about 1686 in Baltimore County, Maryland. She died about 1758 in Baltimore County, Maryland **16.** John Greer and Sarah Day had two sets of twins...Sarah and Ann Greer..born February 15, 1721; Benjamin and Joseph Greer...born January 6, 1726 **17.** John's wife Sarah left him and went to live with her son Aquilla. John was still in Baltimore where he had 4 additional children with Chloe Jones (he was legally admonished for co-habitating with one Chloe Jones). These four children were probably born out of wedlock, as they were not accepted by John's older children and were bound out to pay John's debts after his death.

**Children:**

**a. James Greer:** b 1709 Baltimore Co. MD; d 15 Aug 1742, Baltimore Co. MD; m

**Elizabeth Barton Wright** (b 1711, Baltimore Co. MD) 28 May 1741, St. Johns Parish,

Baltimore Co. MD

**Child:**

**I. James Greer:** b abt 1742, Baltimore Co. MD

**b William Greer, Sr.:** b 1710 Gunpowder River, Baltimore Co. MD; d 1785 Franklin Co.

VA; **m 1 Mary Ann Fitch** (b 1706, Baltimore Co. MD; d 1786, Franklin Co. VA; dau

William & Sarah Fitch), 1732, Baltimore Co. MD

**Children:**

**I. Moses Greer:** b 1744; d 1834

**II.** **Mary Rebecca Greer:** b 1746; d 1810

**III.** **James Greer:** b 1733; d 1806

**IV.** **John Greer:** b 1737

**V.** **William Greer, Jr:** b 1732; d 1802

**VI.** **Shadrack Greer:** b 1735

**VII.** **Aquilla Greer:** b 1738

**VIII.** **Benjamin F. Greer:** b 1740; d 1789

**IX.** **Walter Greer:** b 1742; d 1835

**?????** **m 2 Sarah Freeland;** 1736, Harford MD

**c. Moses Greer:** b 1712, Baltimore Co. MD; d 1777, Pittsylvania Co. VA; **m Mary Bayle**(

b 1714, Baltimore Co. MD; d Franklin Co. VA) Jan 1737, Baltimore Vo. VA; two

children

**d. John Greer, Jr:** b 1714 Gunpowder River, Baltimore Co. MD; d May 1782 Wilkes Co.

NC; **m Sarah Elliot** (b 1716, Talbot Co. MD; d 1750, Rowan Co., now Wilkes, NC; dau

Edward Elliot & Mary Bridges) 1736, St. Johns Parish, Baltimore Co. MD; seven

children

**e. Aquilla Greer [DAR Patriot]:** b 1719, Gunpowder, Baltimore Co. MD; d 11 Apr 1790,

Greene Co. GA; (m **Elizabeth Massey** [Haynes, Lowe?] 1739, Baltimore Co. MD

**Notes: 1.** The name of Aquilla’s wife has been given as **a. Elizabeth Massey. b.**

**Elizabeth Lowe, c. Elizabeth Haynes** b 1725, m 1739, **d. Elizabeth Anderson (Lowe)**

**2.** He is listed as a DAR Revolutionary War Patriot #A048022 **3.** He took the

oath of allegiance in Henry Co. VA, 13 Sep 1777

**Children:**

**i. Sarah Greer:** (1740-1830)

**ii.** **James Greer [DAR Descendant & Patriot** #A048043**]:** (1742-1825)

**iii.** **Aquilla Greer Jr [DAR Descendant & Patriot** #A048021**]:** 1744-1836)

**iv.** **Elizabeth Greer:** (1748-1820)

**v.** **William Greer [DAR Descendant & Patriot** #A048107**]:** (1748-1812)

**vi.** **Vinson Greer:** ( 1750-1800)

**vii.** **Asa (Asel) Greer [DAR]:** (1756-1838)

**viii.** **Delila Greer [DAR]:** (1758-1838)

**f. Sarah Greer:** b 15 Feb 1721, Baltimore Co. MD; d 1721, Baltimore Co. MD **(Twin)**;

**g. Ann Greer:** b 15 Feb 1721 Baltimore Co. MD; d 27 Apr 1752, Franklin Co. VA (**Twin)**;

m **John Starkey**, 10 Jul 1738, St. Georges Parish, BaltimoreCo. MD; eight children

**h. Elizabeth Greer:** b 1723, Gunpowder, Baltimore Co. MD; d 1781, Baltimore Co. MD;

m **Jacob Davice**, 6 Feb 1745, St. Johns Parish, Baltimore Co. MD; three children

**i. Benjamin Greer:** b 6 Jan 1726, Baltimore co. MD; d 28 Dec 1787, Franklin Co. VA

**(Twin);** **m1 Rachel Lowe** (b 1727, Gunpowder, Baltimore Co. MD; d 1769), 2 Jan

1744/45, Baltimore Co. MD; eight children; **m2 Mary Haynes** (b 1739, Caroline Co.

VA; dau Henry E. Haynes & Thurgood Mary Smith) 1769; four children

**j. Joseph Greer:** b 6 Jan 1726 Baltimore Co. MD; d 28 May 1781, Bedford Co. VA

**(Twin)**; **m Ann Lowe** (b 5 Feb 1735, Baltimore Co. MD; d 4 Aug 1791, Bedford co.

VA) , 18 Aug 1750, BaltimoreCo. MD; eleven children

1. **Chloe Jones:** b 1687 MD; d

**Not Married (?):**

**NOTES: 1.** Sarah Day Left John G. Greer and went to live with her son AquillaGreer. John was still living in Baltimore when he had four additional children with Chloe Jones **2.** (He was “legally admonished for co-habitating with one Chloe Jones”). These four children were probably born out of wedlock, as they were not accepted by John's older children and were bound out to pay John's debts after his death **3.**  One source showed John and Chloe married in August 1750 **4.** In his will, John referred to Chloe as his wife **5.** There is conflicting information on the names of John’s children with Chloe Jones. The list below is one that is more accepted Further research needs to be done on this but most of John’s descendants are from his first marriage and are the most prominent researchers on this subject. They tend to omit researching on this subject.

**Children:**

**j. Rebecca Greer:** b 1730 Baltimore co. MD

**k. Alexander Greer:** b 1732 Baltimore co. MD

**l. Martha Greer:** b 1734 Baltimore Co. MD

**m. Mary Greer:** b 1736 Baltimore Co. MD

**Generation IV**

**John Greer, Jr [DAR & SAR Patriot].:** b 1714 Gunpowder River, Baltimore Co. MD; d May 1782 Wilkes Co. NC

1. **Sarah Ann Elliott:** b 1716; d 1764? MD

**Married:** 1736 St. Johns Parish, Joppa, Baltimore Co. MD

**NOTES: 1.** John left Maryland and moved southwest along the Shenandoah Valley Trail

to the area which is present day Franklin County, Virginia and appears on the

tax lists there in 1750. John seems to have moved to the Wilkes County area of

North Carolina about 1771, following his sons Benjamin and Aquilla. He became

a man of some importance in Wilkes County, and was appointed one of the

original Justice of the Peace at the first Court in March 1778 when the county

was organized. The Justices of this period had charge of most of all

administrative functions of the County. John served as a Justice of the Peace

through at least 1779, according to the earliest Court Minutes of Wilkes County

(1778-1784) **2**. Greer, John and Acquilla Greer, 25 December 1762, 580 acres on

north side Stanton River. (Note: this Acquilla is probably Acquilla Sr., John’s

brother.) (35:213): Greer, John, 7 July 1763, 331 acres on north side of Stanton

River." **3.** "A check of the Bedford County probate records, compiled by J.

Whitten, show that John Greer, Acquila Greer and Stephen English returned the

appraisal of the estate of John Anthony on 23 March 1761 (Deed Book 1:392).

John also witnessed the will of his brother Joseph Greer on 12 October 1766

(Will Book 1:390) **4**. In 1765 John deeded lands to his elder sons, Benjamin

receiving the following: "(Bedford County Deeds 2:613): This Indenture made

This 23rd day of July one Thousand seven hundred and sixty five Between John

Greer of the one part and Benjamin Greer, son of the said John Greer, of the

other Part Witnesseth that the said John Greer for ... five shillings ... hath

Granted ... unto the said Benjamin Greer ... one Certain Tract or parcel of Land

Containing one Hundred and sixty two acres ... on the North side of Black Water

River ... Beginning on the North side of the said River at a White Oake thence

Continues the Lines of the said Patent (of three Hundred and Twenty five Acres

by Patent Granted unto the said John Greer the Twentieth day of August 1760)

and to keep the lines of the said Patent to Aquiller Greers Line ... being Half the

said Patent ... (signed) John Greer. Acknowledged 23 July 1765." **5**. "John Greer

died in 1782. He made his will on 2 April 1782, proven in June 1782, a copy of

which is attached [in book]. This names his wife Nanney and friend John Brown

as executors and was witnessed by Archelaus Walker, Nancy Walker and Sarah

Greer. A copy of the inventory of his estate is also attached [in book]. His widow

is listed in the State Census of 1787 as Ann Greer. John Greer had issue: [Lists

nine children and suggests two others, with information about each. This

information is given with each child.] (OUR GREER FAMILY HISTORY, 1983, by

Thomas H. Greer, 335 Miramontes Avenue, Half Moon Bay, California 94019,

pages 48 and 62.) **6.** "John Greer, son of John and Sarah Greer, moved to Lunenburg

County, Vriginia, paid poll taxes there 1750 - 52. He was granted land in Halifax County,

Virginia in 1757. He married Ann \_\_\_\_\_\_ and they lived in Pittsylvania County, Virginia

until 1771. We found him in Surry County, North Carolina where he paid Poll Tax in 1772.

Wilkes County, North Carolina was formed from Surry County in 1778 and John lived

there until he died in 1782. His will named these children: Aquilla, Ann Mitchell, Hannah

DeMoss, John, Benjamin, Joshua and Jesse." (GREER FAMILY HISTORY, by Mrs. Ellen A.

Fawcett, North Little Rock Arkansas. This was received 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.) **7.** "The will of John Greer, Jr. (later known as John Greer, Sr.) was probated July 5,

1782 in Wilkes County North Carolina. In the abstract of that recorded will John is listed

as John "Grier" as are the devisees whose names are listed, all but Hannah. Late in life

John and Nancy had moved to Wilkes County. There seems to be some confusion in the

listing of abstractions of the will. One gives Nancy as a child, but Olds lists her as his wife.

My information is through the genealogical society of the original Wilkes County, North

Carolina." (Will Book 1, page 78, 1782 - Information from a write-up to Lois Temple by

Mrs. Earl McFadden, 439 North 30 Street, Quincy, Illinois 62301.) **7**. "1782 - Grierson,

John, Nancy (wife); Ann Mitchell and Sarah Demess (daughters); Aquilla, John, Benjamin,

John (should be Joshua) and Jesse Grier; Rachel Mitchell and Sarah Hargrave."

(ABSTRACT OF NORTH CAROLINA WILLS, 1760 - 1800, page 323.) (NOTE FROM RALPH

TERRY: I have a copy of John Greer's will and it is plainly stated, " ... equally divided

between Aquilla Greer, John Greer, Benjamin Greer, Joshua Greer, Jesse Greer, Rachel

Mitchel, Sarah Hartgrave and Hannah Demoss." In another part of the will (see below),

however, he says, "my daughter Ann Mitchel." I have felt in the past, that the will was

referring to the same daughter, but according to Mitchell family researchers, there were

two daughter, Rachel and Ann, who married brothers, John and James Mitchell.) **8.**

"WILL of JOHN GREER SR. - Last Will and Testament of John Greer Sr. of Wilkes Co., State

of NC made confirmed this second day of April in the year of our Lord 1782: I, John

Greer, though weak in body, am of sound mind and disposing judgment, thanks be to

God for his mercies ----Calling to mind the mortality of the body and knowing it is

appointed for all manner and of following ---Do ordain this my last Will and Testament,

in That is: Say: First: I give and bequeath to Nancy Greer, my well beloved wife, the whole

right of my plantation on which I now live, with all the rights, privileges and immunities,

thereunto belonging, during the term of her natural life. Likewise, my household

furniture to be hers during the same term. And also the third part of my personal estate.

At the expiration of that term, the land with all rights and privileges thereunto belonging

---- it consisting of two different entries which is Four Hundred and Ninety- Two and a

Half Acres (492 1/2) ---Then to be the property of my son, Jessey Greer, to hold the same

Free and Clear of incumbrances. I, also, give and bequeath to my daughter, Ann Mitchell,

a certain negro girl named Phoeba, which she now has in her possession. I, also give and

bequeath to my daughter, Hannah Demoss, a certain negro girl named Hannah, which

she now has in her possession. It further is my will and devise that the residue and

remaining part of my estate, both real and personal, after the payment of my just debts

and funeral expenses, be equally divided between Aquilla Greer, John Greer, Benjamin

Greer, Joshua Greer, Jessey Greer, Rachel Mitchell, Sarah Hardgrave and Hannah

Demoss. And I do hereby nominate and appoint my well-beloved Wife, Nancy Greer

and my trusty and well-beloved friend, John Brown to be the whole and sole executors

of this, my last will and testament. And do hereby revoke and disclaim all former Wills,

gifts, legacies and bequests, by me heretofore made. In testimony, I have hereunto set

my hand and seal, the day and date above written. Signed, Sealed and declared as my

last will and Testament in the presence of: (Witnesses) (signature) ( ) Archelus Walker

John Greer (SEAL) Nancy Walker ( ) Sarah Greer The above Will was duly proved by

Archelus Walker, Nancy Walker and Sarah Greer and ordered to be recorded." (On file in

the Department of Archives and History, State of North Carolina at Raleigh Pages 78-79

June Term, 1782.) **9.** 1752 Aquilla, Benjamin, Joesph and John Greer were listed on

Lunenburg Co., Val Tithable List **10.** JOHN GREER- BALTIMORE MD. Posted by: Mary

Floy Katzman Date: September 27, 1999 at 21:21:01 In Reply to: Re: JOHN GREER-

BALTIMORE MD. by Mary Lee Barnes of 1976: I believe it was John Greer, Jr. who

married 1st Sarah Elliott and had children Aquilla (1737) and John (1740). I also

believe he was the one misbehaving with Chloe Jones. After Sarah Elliott Greer

died (no dates), he married Nancy Ann (Nanny) Walker? John died in Wilkes Co.,

NC in 1782 where he left a will naming his wife as "Nanny" and children Aquilla,

John, Benjamin, Joshua, Ann, Rachel, Jesse, Hannah and Sarah. I descend from

two of Benjamin's sons - Jesse and David.

**Children:**

**a. Smith Greer:** b unknown He does not show up in all listings of children of John

Greer, Jr. and Sarah Elliott. In one list he shows as child #8 not child #1

**b. Aquilla Greer:** b 29 Jan 1737 Baltimore Co. MD; d 1740 Edmonson Co. KY

**Note:** Aquilla’s RW service needs to be researched.

**c. John Greer:** b 1740 Baltimore Co. MD

**d. Rachel (Ann?) Greer:** b 1744; **m James Mitchell**

**Note:** One record shows Rachel and Ann as two separate children in one on line list. This might not be true since Ann is noted as marrying (?) Mitchell and the same notes Rachel married James Mitchell. No birth or death dates are given for either nor marriage dates.

**e. Benjamin Greer [SAR & DAR Descendant and also Patriot]:** b 9 Feb 1746 Albemarle

Co. VA; d 23 Oct 1816 Green Co. KY; m **Nancy Wilcoxson** (dau Sarah Boone

Wilcoxson & Joh Wilcoxson **[SAR & DAR Patriots]**

**f. Joshua Greer:** b 1750 (abt 1746?); d 17 Oct 1796, Wilkes Co. NC; m **Sarah (Davis?)**

**g. Sarah Greer:** b 1751; m **Francis Hardgrave**

**Notes: 1.** Francis and Sarah Greer Hardgrave sold a lot in Staunton, Augusta Co., VA to  
James Patton. This was recorded in Wilkes Co., NC 7  
August 1794. 27 July  
1784. **2.**  John Brown, Esq. privately examined Sarah Hardgrave concerning her  
passing away her right of Dower in Stanton, Augusta Co., VA by Francis  
Hardgrave to John McCubben. Recorded in Will Book 3 of Wilkes County, NC  
**3.** November 1818, Francis Hardgrave of Davidson Co., TN gives Power of Attorney  
to Turner Hampton.

**h. Hannah Greer:** b 1752; m Lewis DeMoss, 13 Feb 1783, Bedford Co. VA

**i. Jesse B. Greer Sr [DAR].:** b 1757 Wilkes Co. NC; d bef 28 Oct 1788 Wilkes Co. NC; m **Judith (Judah) Hampton**, 13 Aug 1799, Wilkes Co. NC

**Notes: 1.** two children, Jesse Jr. and John Anderson Greer next generation **2.** Aquilla Greer and Francis Hardgrave were bondsmen for the marriage of Jesse and Judah. **3.** Judah Greer was appointed as Admrx of Jesse’s estate with Joshua Greer as bondsman

1. **Nancy Ann (Nanny) Walker:** b 1716

**Married:** 1756? Wilkes Co. NC

**NOTE:** There is conflicting information in the marriage date of John Greer, Jr. to Nancy Walker. Several sources show his first wife, Sarah Elliott, died in 1764.

**Children:?**

**E. Benjamin Greer [DAR & SAR Descendant and Patriot]:** b: 9 Feb 1746 Albemarle Co. VA; d:

23 Oct 1816 Green Co. KY

1. **Nancy Wilcoxson:** b 6 Sept 1746 Lancaster Co. PA; d 3 (31?) Oct 1790 Wilkes Co. NC; buried on family farmland, non-cemetery (dau Sarah Boone Wilcoxson & John Wilcoxson, Sr.)

**Married:** 27 Nov 1763 Rowan Co. NC

**NOTE:** Benjamin Greer was born in Albemarle, Virginia and grew up in Franklin County, Virginia. Soon after obtaining his majority, around 1770, he settled in the area that is now southwest Wilkes County, North Carolina. This was part of Rowan County until 1778. He arrived with other Greers and began clearing land, building cabins and farming, all around the area of Cub Creek (the southwest area of modern Wilkes County). Benjamin, along with brother Aquilla, is found on the tax lists of 1771. By 1772, his father John, brothers Joshua and John, Jr. also appear.

At the first meeting of the Wilkes County NC Court in March of 1778 Benjamin was appointed as a constable in Capt. Hargraves district which is said to have been in the area of Moravian Creek (Now called Moravian Falls). During the Revolutionary War Benjamin saw various services in the Wilkes County Militia, though documentary record of this is scarce. His most famous exploit was the rescue of his commander, Col. Benjamine Cleveland from the Tories in April 1781 near Meat Camp Creek in Wilkes (now Ashe) Co. NC

Ben was the participant of the coining of the phrase "Greer Hint". When a fellow solider stole his tobacco, Ben threatened to whip him for it. When the Col (Benjamin Cleveland) chastised them to "fight only the enemy", Ben said he'd "give a hint of it to him anyway". When he met the tobacco pilfer, he knocked him down. "Greers hint" began and was meant to read "you don't have to knock me down with a hint". ". Ben and Nancy then settled at "Old Fields" on the west bank of the New River, where Gap Creek enters the South Fork of the New River in Ashe County (4 miles above Cleveland's plantation). In 1890, the old chimney was still standing. Benjamin was a member of the Three Forks Baptist Church from 1790 to 1800 but had to leave the church in 1807 due to intemperance.

Benjamin’s second wife Was Sarah “Sally Atkinson Jones. About 1803, after selling tracts of land, Ben and Sallie moved to Green County, Kentucky, (following Daniel Boone), leaving his sons behind. On February 21, 1816, Ben made a will leaving everything to his second wife and their children. To the 10 children he had with 1st wife Nancy, he left to each a single dollar.

**Child #3 of Benjamin Greer & Nancy Wilcoxson:**

**William( Lewis?) Greer [SAR & DAR]:** b 21 Jan 1772 Rowan Co. NC; d 1862 Ashe Co. NC

**NOTES: 1.** According to Mary Floy Katzman, who compiled a book on the Greer family in North Carolina, William was listed in the Ashe County, North Carolina Censuses in the years of 1800, 1840, and 1850. In 1860 he was listed in North Fork, Ashe County, NC. She reported that according to the Francis Marion Wilcox Journal written in 1897, the family moved to what is now Owsley County, Kentucky until 1821 or 1822. They moved back to Ashe County, NC. William reportedly longed for Kentucky and believed it to be the "promised land." Francis Marion Wilcox attended William's and Hannah's funeral which was officiated by their grandson Rev. William M. “Billy” Wilcox in the summer of 1862. **2.** William was a farmer and he and Hannah lived on 50 acres near the mouth of Big Elk Fork of the New River. Neither could read nor write.  
In 1820 the family migrated to the Three Forks of the Kentucky River to what is now Owsley County, Kentucky. They arrived and became a new addition to the settlement (where the town of Proctor is now located). Here for a short time they devoted their attention principally to hunting and farming and blazing out new lines of travel.  
The colony became homesick and as the Indians quite often made dashes into the wilds of Kentucky in search of game and generally decorated their belts with more or less white scalps. This magnified their horrors and made them long for home. In the fall of 1821 or the spring of 1822, they pulled up stakes, packed their horses and mules and after a long journey, they arrived back in Ashe County. Some of them returned to lament their choice, while others were to gather fresh courage and be off again. **3.** The middle name of Lewis for William Greer comes from research done by Mary Floy Katzman.

**Hannah Cartwright [DAR]:** b 1 Jul 1772 Rowan Co. NC; d 1862 Ashe Co. NC (dau Joseph Cartwright, Sr **[DAR]** and Eve Miller; m 1770)

**Married:** 1788

**NOTE:** Hannah and her brother Joseph Cartwright, Jr **[DAR]** were orphaned in 1778 when their father Joseph Cartwright, Sr. (1745-1778) died. Birth and death years for Eve Miller show 1749-1777. Further information on her parents is lacking, especially the circumstances of their deaths. Hannah’s brother Joseph Cartwright, Jr **[DAR]** (5 years old) was apprenticed out to Rowland Judd. Rowland Judd’s son, Robert Judd, married William’s sister Rachel. Hannah (6 years old) was apprenticed out to James Gray. Both Rowland Judd and James Gray served on jury duty with Hannah’s future father-in-law Benjamin Greer. These two connections with the Greer family may be the way William and Hannah met.

**Children:**

1. **Jacintha (Cynthia) Greer:** b 1806; d 1866; m **William Hardin (Jim?) Parsons** (b abt 1806, Ashe Co. NC; d abt 8 Mar 1886, Ashe Co. NC (son of George Parsons & Sarah Hardin ) abt 1827

**Children:**

**a. James PARSONS:** b 1828, NC; d 1900; m **Rebecca Younce** (b 1826, Ashe Co. NC; d

1900, Ashe Co. NC) eight children **b. Isaac PARSONS:** b Jul 1830, NC; d 1919, Grethel, Floyd Co. KY; m **Louisa Dixon** (b

1833, Ashe Co. NC; d 1890 Grethel, Floyd Co. KY) abt 1849; eleven children **c. Rebecca C. PARSONS:** b abt 1833,Jobs Cabin, Wilkes Co. NC; d 1855; m1 **? Younce**;

m2 **James C Benge  
 d. Hannah "Hanner" PARSONS:** b abt 1835NC; d aft 1880; m **John Gilley**, 11 Aug 1855,

Ashe Co. NC **e. George Washington PARSONS:** b 5 Dec 1835, Ashe Co. NC; d 20 Jan 1905, Ashe Co.

NC; m **Eve Dixon** (b ant 1840, NC; d 20 Jan 1905, Ashe Co. NC) 14 Nov 1858, Ashe

Co. NC; nine children **f. Sarah (Eveline) PARSONS:** b 29 Nov 1836, Ashe Co. NC; d 26 May 1913, Ashe Co. NC;

m **Joshua McGuire** (b 5 Dec 1830, Ashe Co. NC; d 16 Sep 1890), 25 Jan 1870; one

child **g. William H. PARSONS:** b 1840, Ashe Co. NC; m **Rachel Phillips  
 h. Mary Ann PARSONS:** b 1842 **i. Henry M (Martin?) PARSONS:** b 13 Aug 1842; d 21 Aug 1922, Johnson Co. TN; buried

Mountain View Cemetery, Mountain City, Johnson Co. TN; **m Sarah (Mattie)**

**Forrester**(b 1849, NC; d aft 1893, Johnson Co. TN), 16 Feb 1866, Johnson Co. TN;

fifteen children **j. Elijah Hamilton PARSONS:** b 1846 **k. Malinda J. "Balinda?" PARSONS:** b abt 1847, NC; d ; **m Charles Luther Perkins**, 14

Dec 1875, Johnson Co. TN **l. Ara "Amy" PARSONS:** b 1850, Ashe Co. NC **m. John C. PARSONS:** b 1851, Ashe Co. NC; d 1879, Ashe Co. NC; **m Alice M Hodge** (b

abt 1860, NC); four children **n. Luisa PARSONS:** b 1858, Ashe Co. NC

1. **Aley (Mahale/Mahala/Allia) Greer:** b after 1788 (abt 1805?) (m ?, one child)
2. **Sarah (Sallie) Greer:** b 20 May 1793 in Ashe Co. NC; d (23 Feb ?) 21 March 1862 Boone Watauga Co. NC; buried Old Hopewell Cemetery, Boone, Watauga Co. NC (m **Levi** **Blackburn**, buried Old Hopewell Cemetery)

**NOTE**: Levi Blackburn 1794-1871 was known as both the "Father of Methodism" and "The Builder of Churches" in Watauga County, N. C. He also operated a store and grist mill in the Todd-Meat Camp section of Ashe and Watauga Counties, N. C.

See Watauga County Heritage Book, Vol. I

**Children:**

1. **Elizabeth Blackburn:** b 1815; d 1877 (m **Miller**)
2. **William Blackburn:** b Sep 1822, NC (m **Malinda Ray**)
3. **Edmund Blackburn:** b 1825; d 1877
4. **Isaac Blackburn:** b 1827; d 1864
5. **Hamilton B. Blackburn:** b 1834; d 1892
6. **Sarah B Blackburn:** b 1838; d 1907 (m **Davis**)
7. **Rebecca Blackburn:** b 1839; d 1911 (m **Miller**)
8. **Frances “Fannie” Greer [SAR & DAR]:** b 1796 in Wilkes (now Ashe) Co. NC; d 1866 Ashe Co. NC; buried in Slicky Miller cemetery Staggs Creek Clifton Ashe Co. NC (m **Isaiah Wilcoxson [DAR & SAR]**)

**NOTES: 1.** Fannie and Isaiah divorced but there is no record of this. Isaiah later married Anna Jordan. **2.** For descendants of Fannie & Isaiah Wilcoxson, they are listed farther down in this document.

1. **Isaac Newton Greer [DAR]:** b 10 March 1798 Wilkes (now Ashe) Co. NC; d 10 Jan 1871 Robinson Creek, Pike Co. KY (m **Nancy Norris** 9 Jan 1821 in Ashe Co. NC, 6 children)
2. **Mary Polly Greer:**  b 28 Nov 1799 Ashe Co. NC; d 28 Feb 1892 Ashe Co. NC; Burial: 1892, Blackburn/Howell Cemetery, Bald Mountain T.S., Ashe Co. NC.

**Children:**

1. [**Malinda Greer**](http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/g/a/y/Deborah-Gaynor/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0139.html): b. Mar 09, 1829, Ashe Co. NC; d. Oct 02, 1912, Ashe Co. NC; m **Jefferson Greer** [her second cousin], son of Elijah Greer & Sarah Hawkins (3 children)
2. [**Hamilton Greer**](http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/g/a/y/Deborah-Gaynor/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0504.html): b. 1825, Ashe Co. NC; d. 1864; m **Jane Greer** [his second cousin], dau of Elijah Greer & Sarah Hawkins (three children)
3. **Ma**[**ry Ann Greer**](http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/g/a/y/Deborah-Gaynor/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0489.html): b. Jun 1831, d 8 Nov 1913, Avery Co. NC; m **Lazarus Trivett** (4 {?} children)

**NOTES: 1.** Mary Polly was never married. In the 1860 census she is living with her son Hamilton Greer. In the 1880 census, she is living with her daughter Millie. **2.** Family tradition is that Absalom Faw was the father of all three of Mary Polly Greer’s children. **3.** Hamilton Greer served in the Civil War. He died while serving in the 13th TN Vol. Cavalry. **4.** Malinda and Hamilton married siblings, Jefferson and Jane Greer. These siblings were grandchildren of their grandfather’s [William Greer] brother John Greer.

**Nancy (Nan) Greer (?):** b 1801 Ashe Co. NC; d after 1880 Ashe Co. NC (m **John Walker** bet 1870-1880)

**NOTES: A.** Research done by Dorthy Grissom Mack shows Nancy did not marry Buckner Tatum. Nancy had three children **1.** Charlotte “Lottie: Greer (father Buckner Tatum?) b Oct 1823 Ashe Co. NC; d Aug 1889 Ashe co. NC **2.** Temperance “Tempie” Tatum Greer (father Buckner Tatum?) b May 1827 Ashe Co. NC; d Dec 1916 Ashe Co. NC **3.** Henry Greer b 1845 Ashe Co. NC (father unknown) **4.** The 1880 Old Fields, Ashe County census shows her married to John Walker and living next door to her daughter Charlotte (she was 80 years old at this time).

1. **Charlotte Greer:** b 1802 Ashe Co. NC; d 1882 Old Fields, Ashe Co. NC; buried, Younce Family farm (m **Elijah Younce** 14 March or April 1821 Ashe Co. NC)
2. **Elizabeth Greer:** b 1804 Wilkes Co. NC; d 1850 Wilkes Co. NC ; m **Larkin Owens** (b 31 Oct 1804, Wilkes Co. NC; d 10 May 1894, Wilkes Co. NC 1824 Wilkes Co. NC)

**NOTES: 1.** Elizabeth and Larkin may have been first cousins **2.** At least one researcher statesLarkin was a son of Elizabeth’s uncle John Greer and Rhoda Owens. Larkin was born out of wedlock. **3.** Other researchers states Larkin’s father was Aaron or Bernard Owens. **4.** His mother is usually listed as Rhoda Owens. This is probably true since one of Elizabeth and Larkin’s children was named Rhoda **5.** One of Elizabeth and Larkin’s direct descendants confirmed Elizabeth and Larkin were first cousins. John Greer, Elizabeth’s uncle was the father of Larkin Owens. Larkin’s mother Rhoda Owens was the sister of John’s wife Nancy (Elizabeth) Owens.

**Children:**

1. **Andrew J. Owens:** b Feb 1825, Wilkes Co. NC; m **Mary M. (?) Owens** (b May 1830) abt 1848, Wilkes co. NC; nine children
2. **Zachariah Owens:** b 1826-1827, Wilkes Co. NC; d 1864
3. [**Alice “Allie” Owens**](http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/c/o/l/Rhodella-C-Coleman/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0149.html)**:** b. Feb 3, 1827, Jobs Cabin, Wilkes Co. NC; d. May 29, 1916, Jobs Cabin, Wilkes Co. NC; m **Aaron Beshears** (b 27 Dec 1817, Wilkes Co. NC; d 10 Feb 1892Wilkes Co. NC; seven children; both buried in Beshears Cemetery, Wilkes Co. NC
4. **David Owens:** b 1831, Wilkes Co. NC
5. **Hiram Owens:** b 1833, Wilkes Co. NC; d 1859; m **Ellen Shepherd** (b 4 May 1833; d 1 Jun 1903, Ashe Co. NC
6. **Mary Owens:** b 1836, Wilkes Co. NC
7. **Phillip Owens:** b 1837, Wilkes Co. NC; d 1864
8. **Elijah Owens:** b 19 (Apr) Jul 1838, Wilkes Co. NC; d 7 May 1919, Ashe Co. NC; m **Rebecca E. Church** (b 27 Feb 1839; d 1 Jun 1904 Ashe Co. NC; dau William B. Preacher Billy Church Sr. and Sarah Lenderman) 1868; both buried in Elijah Owens Cemetery, Wilkes Co. NC
9. **Benjamin Owens:** b 1839, Wilkes Co. NC; d 1861
10. **Rhoda (Rhody) Owens:** b 1844, Wilkes Co. NC
11. **Barnet or Barnard Owens:** b abt 1844, Wilkes Co. NC;d 18 May 1847, Wilkes Co. NC
12. **Hamilton Greer (?):** b 1826 Ashe Co. NC

**NOTES: 1.** The above list of children was compiled by Dorthy Grissom Mack. Five other lists exclude Hamilton Greer and have Mahale/Mahala and Cynthia as daughters. These names are placed in parentheses after Jacintha (b 1806) and Aley (b abt 1805). **2.** Finding one list with Jacintha as an alternate name for Cynthia and Allia as an alternate name for Mahale/Mahala verify all six lists do include these two daughters. Three lists with these two daughters give more specific birth dates than Dorthy Mack’s list which shows after 1788. **3.** Dorthy Mack’s list questions if Nancy Greer was a daughter of William and Hannah Greer. Five other lists do have Nancy as their daughter. **4.** One source shows three children for Mary Polly Greer which include Hamilton Greer. The source notes she had three children and was never married. This information is listed under Mary Polly Greer.