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| Glenn,  I fired up the laptop and looked at my Wilson ancestor.  Rebecca Iva Wilson was my great grandmother. She was the first wife of Martin VanBuren Wilcox. Rebecca was born in Ashe County in 1836 or 1844. I have seen both years listed in various sources. She died before 2 June 1880 in Ashe County. I haven't found her name in the Ashe Cemetery records so she may not have been buried there. I haven't found any more information on Iva, which is what she must have gone by. I am a descendant of her son General Grant Wilcox. Grant was my grandfather. On his death certificate his mother is listed as Iva Wilson and this is why I think she went by her middle name.  Several years after Iva's death Martin married Mary E, "Molly" Tucker. Molly was much younger than Martin. From what I can gather Molly was pregnant with their first child when they married. Descendants of Iva and Martin seemed to have a strained relationship with Martin after he re-married. One of my first cousins said Grant and his children didn't have much to do with Martin and I think it may have had to do with his second marriage and "being too conversant" with his much younger woman before their marriage. Shotgun wedding? In Mountain folk terms it seems Molly was "tetched in the head". She died at Broughton Hospital in Morganton. When I saw the name of the hospital bells went off. Broughton was the "Crazy House". Lots of jokes about the mental asylum in Morganton abounded when I was a kid in Boone. I even visited it once when I was taking a psychology course in high school. Been there, seen it, and walked out the front door with all my classmates and teachers. Didn't know at the time the link between my family and the place.  Maybe some of the Wilson cousins recognize my great grandmother's name. I could not find any information on her parents names. Maybe I have further connections with the Wilsons in your family line. | | | | | |
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Cousin Glenn,

I have been assisting both Cousin Willa and Cousin Debbie Porter in their search for documentation to prove their blood line from Benjamin Greer. The only help I have been able to render so far is getting a copy of Benjamin's will. I had already found an extract of his will so I had a head start. l then contacted Green County KY and asked if they had records going back that far. I was informed they didn't but the older records may have been sent to the state archive for safe keeping. I called up the Kentucky State Archive and sure enough Green County had sent their old records to them. The records they had for green County go back to the year before Benjamin's will was filed. I sent off for the will and low and behold they had it. I got a certified copy of the will in the mail a couple of days ago. Took me a couple of days to get up the energy to scan the document and save it o my thumb drive.

Attached is the Will of Benjamin Greer. The first page is information on the record, where it is, and the condition of the paper. The next three pages are the will its self. The  fifth page is the certification stamp and signature that is on the back of the third page of the will its self. The last attachment is the transcript I found of Ole Ben's will.

The DAR and SAR don't always accept a transcript of a will without a copy of the original document. Debbie, Willa, and a third cousin now have the will its self. We are still at an impasse trying to document their blood line to James Greer's sons Andrew S and Alexander. The will lists James as a son of Benjamin. I believe there is a Greer family book that shows this but evidently the DAR is not accepting it as an approved source document.

Benjamin's will also helps me with my War of 1812 research. It proves John Greer was a son of Benjamin and brother of my William Greer. John was a member of the Militia and served in the War of 1812. Unlike the SAR and DAR the Society of the War of 1812 allows men to join through co-lateral ancestors (Multi great uncles). I now have documentation for our one Greer family member who served and two Wilcoxson brothers who also served. There were three Wilcoxson brothers but I can't find documentation to prove one of them. I did find records to prove all four of these uncles did serve in the NC Militia in the War of 1812.

I hope some other cousin may be able to help Debbie, Willa, and the third cousin in their search for the documentation they need. I found the Ben Greer will but have hit a brick wall with the next generation they need.

Cousin Gary

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**Glenn,**

**I should be ready for the gathering on the 19th of June. I will start getting my attire ordered soon. I have completed the document for the presentation and will be rehearsing and probably revising it as I go along. There is at least one other organization that wants me to do the presentation.**

**We have a cousin, Bonnie Steelman, who lives in Watauga and is interested in attending the gathering on the 19th. Bonnie is very active in the local DAR. She is a descendant of John & Sarah through Nancy Wilcoxson & Benjamin Greer. Her Greer surname goes all the way to her mother, much like my Wilcox surname goes all the way through my mother. That’s the Wilcox line without the Greer side shoot branch.**

**With your permission, I will give Bonnie your e-mail address.**

**Attached is all the information I have found on the location of Benjamin Cartwright’s capture and rescue. Maybe one of our cousins who lives in Ashe will know where those places are. I am far from familiar with the area. Local cousins should have no trouble finding out the places.**

**Yesterday I got a book on Ashe County, The History of Ashe County, published in 1963. I forget the author’s name. I found it on Amazon.com for $12.00 and it’s in pretty good shape for such an old book. I also managed to get The Heritage of Watauga County Volume I on Amazon. I find it fascinating. It has been out of print for ages and the local organization has no intention of re-printing it again. They do have Volume II for sale but it is not nearly as detailed as Volume I. They do make a good set. I found some revisions in Volume II that gave better information on at least one of my ancestors, the Yarber**

**family.**

**Till mid next week it is easier for me to attach information to e-mails from work. I have about 70% of my personal files sent to home now. Of course, after next week I will be doing everything from home.**

**The agenda looks fine. I will be available for Saturday’s gatherings but not sure about Sunday yet. Too far out to commit to that right now. I know my daughter Wendy would love going to both but my wife is not too keen on these things unless it is her family and she knows everyone.**

**Cousin Gary**

**From:** [**gary.hodges1@verizon.net**](mailto:gary.hodges1@verizon.net) **[mailto:**[**gary.hodges1@verizon.net**](mailto:gary.hodges1@verizon.net)**]   
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 9:39 AM  
To: Hodges, Gary CIV USN NAVAIRTERM  
Subject: Fwd: July 19, 2014**

**Glenn,**

**Thanks for the notification. I continue to work on the Greer line and recently submitted my work to a cousin for his review. It’s still a work in progress. I have also been working on my Church family line. Interestingly enough there is a connection between those two lines, though not in my direct ancestry.**

**Samuel Greer married Sarah Church, daughter of Phillip Church. Samuel was a son of Benjamin Greer and brother of my William Greer. Sarah was a daughter of Phillip Church and sister of my Francis “Fannie” Church. Fannie married into the McGuire line which I am a member of. Phillip was a son of John Yankee Church.**

**I went to high school with a couple of Stansbery boys. Gregg and Larry Stanbery were in the Appalachian High School class of 1965. Attached is the photo of our graduating class and the names of all students. Note the way the local paper showed the spelling of their last name, Stanbery, not Stansbery. Not sure if this is a typo or not. With Watauga and Ashe being joined it’s probable that these families have their roots in Ashe. Watauga didn’t become a separate county till the mid 1800s while Ashe was formed in 1799. I don’t know anything about their families. I vaguely remember they were cousins, not brothers.**

**I retire from civil service at the end of next month and I am already getting excited with anticipation. The first big trip my family plans on taking is to KY for the Boone Society annual reunion. I will have a chance to meet some cousins I have been corresponding with.  We are looking into attending the Greer and Yankee John Church reunions in Ashe also.**

**Saturday night I attended a joint session of the Thomas Nelson Jr. and Williamsburg chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution. The session included the re-installation of officers of both chapters. I am the chaplain  of TNJ. As I was going into the building I met a gentleman in formal dress and a Scottish Clan Tartan kilt. He was also attending the meeting. I already knew this gentleman, Jim Swords, but did not know of his Scottish heritage. Low and behold Jim is of the Clan McGregor. Of course, our Greer line is also of this clan. Seated at the same table as me was another gentleman with Scottish heritage. He informed me there is a society for those of Scottish heritage, the Saint Andrew’s Society. There is a chapter in Williamsburg. Also one of the founding members of this chapter opened up a Scottish shop in Williamsburg with mist everything Scottish. This founding member is a native of Scotland. If I want to get my “Scott on” there is a place for me to go to get all I need. I had visited this shop before so I know just where it is.**

**When I get my Greer family document in better shape I will forward it to you. As a work in progress it’s probably not ready for posting.**

Glen,

I find it interesting that one of my aunts and her family moved to Joppa MD many years ago. Aunt Bina Wilcox married a Day and they moved to Joppa to raise their family. Guess with Aunt Bina the Greers came back home. I have never looked into the family line of her husband. Maybe I should visit family in Joppa and check the area out.

I have corresponded with a member of the Battle of Kings Mountain Descendants Association and he came to the conclusion that there is no proof Ben Greer was there. According to him the reason Ben is on any list for the BKM is the fact he served as a Captain under Col Benjamin Cleveland. Cleveland was a prominent officer in that battle so by association Ben Greer was added to the list. This person did say the rosters of troops who participated is incomplete but one would think a Captain would have been included in any roster. So the bottom line for us is maybe Ben was there, maybe he was not.

I am still presented with the puzzlement on the two differing days for Nancy Wilcoxson Greers death. I just find it too convenient that some show her death the same day as the birth of Thomas. I have seen nothing stating she died in childbirth. Nancy was 44 years old at the time of her death. Now she did have her 11th child when she was nearly 42. I still think that something as significant as dying as a result of childbirth would have been recorded in the family history, given the fact this family was prominent, part of the Boone family. If the tale of Ben firing the fatal shot at Ferguson still survives then why doesn’t Nancy dying at/shortly after childbirth survive.

As far as Ben firing the fatal shot, I believe I saw this tale confirmed in the diaries of Captain Lenoir. I understand his diaries are in the archives of one of the universities in NC. I am going form memory on this, too lazy this morning to go back in my research papers to confirm it. Have you found anything of this sort in your research?

I have decided to prepare a presentation, portraying myself as John Wilcoxson. My goal is to write something I can give, in about a half hour or so, and become an interpretive historian, giving a talk on John. I find the story of his and the Boone families lives fertile ground for such. I am considering doing this in period clothing, presenting myself as John Wilcoxson. I think there are several groups in our area that would welcome this. I know of at least three gentlemen in our area who portray their selves as historic figures, dressing in appropriate attire. One local gentleman portrays his self as the Marquis de Lafayette. He does a fantastic job immersing his self in character. Another portrays a British officer in the corps of engineers. This gentleman does a wonderful presentation on the Battle of Great Bridge and how significant it was to the Revolution.

When in depth research is done on John Wilcoxson, and his connections with the Boone family, significant facts come to light. His marriage to Sarah Boone and their “knowing” each other prior to marriage fueled the flame of discontent between the Boones and the Quaker Church. We have discussed just what impact this had on the history of America. Because the Boone and Wilcoxson families moved from PA to NC, our uncle Daniel went to Kantuck rather than the wilderness farther North. I think I can present myself as our ancestor in a way that will be enlightening and entertaining. The president of my Sons of the American Revolution chapter is encouraging me to pursue this idea. There should be ample venues in our area to make this type presentation. As a former public school teacher and now a training specialist I love to teach and impart knowledge. History has always been a passion of mine. Who better than a descendant of John Wilcoxson to tell people about his life and our families contributions to American history.

Take care and have a good weekend.

Cousin Gary

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Glenn,  
  
I was looking at my previous messages to you and see I haven't sent you much of anything since you returned from Merry Ole England. I promised to send you Marion Wilcox's journal and some Greer information.  
  
  
Here is Marion Wilcox's journal. I found it in Word format on the Johnson Co TN Cousins site. I later bought the printed version and added pages to the document as best as I could. This journal is full of information about several of our family members. From Marion's journal, I was able to document my lineage from Isaiah & Fannie Wilcox to my great grandfather Martin VanBuren Wilcox. Those two generations were lacking in my family documentation. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.  
  
  
  
These are two family line documents created by cousin Dorthy Mack. Dorthy is the senior genealogist of the Boone Society. Her Boone ancestor was one of Sarah's brothers.  It was Cousin Dorthy who got me started on my family research journey and has guided me through the ins and outs of digging into my roots. Dorthy's information is not always 100%. There may be a few inconsistencies here and there. She takes information from on line sources and her vast repository of Boone and allied families information. I have noticed she occasionally gets dates skewed. I think it is a combination of sources that contradict their selves and the fact that she doesn't always have time to double check all the family line documents she creates. She stays very busy with queries from people who stumble across her address while searching the Boone Society web site. I have been trying to convert some of her work from pdf to Word and make corrections as I notice them. I would give Dorthy a 99% grade rating on her work.  
  
  
  
This one is on Isaiah Wilcoxson who married his second cousin Fannie Greer. I was working on him at the time Dorthy created this one for me. By the way, I have permission from her to share all this work with cousins and other interested people.  
  
  
  
Sometimes one of the best sources of documented proof of lineage comes from membership applications approved by the Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution. Here are several that I have in my files. They include the two that I have successfully submitted for John & Sarah Wilcoxson. I have two more submitted for review at the chapter level and another I am working on. If you visit the SAR and DAR web sites you can do Patriot Ancestor searches in their files. From there you can order copies of applications. I suggest you go to these sites, especially the DAR one, and do some name searching. Spelling is important so if you don't find someone try another variation of their surname. You will notice Benjamin and his father John are spelled Grier in the DAR data base. There are many more names in the DAR records than the SAR. Neither John Grier (Greer) or Joseph Cartwright are in the SAR data base. The reason being no one has filed an application with the SAR for either of them. I intend on rectifying that. Those are two applications I am working on.  
  
I will send you more later. I got in touch with Dale Wilson. He and my life histories are so intertwined or parallel that its spooky. To many things we have in common to mention right now.  
  
Regards  
  
Cousin Gary  
Gary O. Hodges

**12 attachments** — [Download all attachments](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=9e29275475&view=att&th=1415f3d6238ded14&disp=zip)

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My gosh....I know what I will be doing the rest of the day!  Glad you and Dale Wilson made contact.  He is a fine fellow.  More later...thanks for the long note and explanations.  Glenn

Glenn,  
  
I have looked at many of your postings on the Greer, Boone, and Wilcox families and your research is extensive. Saying that, I will try to send you information that might be new to you. Pardon me if you already have some of this information.  
  
  
  
I have the bound published earliest Wilkes County NC Court Minutes that is published by the Wilkes Gen Society and have their Wilkes Will Book 1 on order. There are numerous references to John and Benjamin Greer in the first court minutes 1778-1784. There are over 20  separate entries on John and at least 14 on Benjamin. Wilkes County was created in 1778. I include three references to Benjamin Greer being a Captain in the Wilkes Militia. The two pension applications are of particular interest to me for two reasons. One is these brothers mention Benjamin as a Captain and the other is they are brothers of Phillip Church, an ancestor of mine on the Wilcox/McGuire family line. Their father John Yankee Church is an ancestor on both sides of my family. Phillip, Amos and John Jr's brother Elisha Church is my direct ancestor on my Hodges side. All three are sons of John Yankee Church.  
  
  
  
Daniel Wilcoxson was one of John and Sarah's sons. He served in the Revolutionary War. There is at least one reference to their son Samuel, Isaiah's father and Nancy's brother, serving in the RW but the Word document I created and annotated probably clears this up. You will note that there is no reference to John serving in the 8th VA Infantry on any SAR or DAR documents. You probably know about the consternation between Squire Boone and the Quaker Church. He was called before the Exeter Meeting House to answer for his indiscretions. His daughter Sarah, who married john Wilcoxson, was the second daughter Squire allowed to marry "out of Fellowship" with the Society of Friends. And there was the inconvenient fact that when the ladies of the church did the math they discovered Sarah was "with child' when she and John Wilcoxson married.  
  
The records show that Sarah was "Treated" for marrying out. Cousin Reg Wilcox has done a lot of research on this and he found that there is no record of Sarah or her family being expelled from the Exeter Meeting House of Quakers. Seems that "Treated" was a step just below expulsion. This consternation between the Quakers and the Boone/Wilcoxson family evidently festered to the point that Squire Boone packed his family up and headed to Rowan County NC. John and Sarah  went with the Boones there. It is said that Squire Boone was so mad at his Quaker neighbors that he piled up some of his family possessions, things he couldn't take with him, and burned them so the neighbors wouldn't have them.  
  
Interesting how things that we might find inconsequential today can change the course of history. Right now there is a pastor of a Friends Church who started as a Catholic, converted to the Baptist faith, and was ordained by a Baptist church. This pastor is my spiritual mentor. Back then the simple fact that two of a particular man's daughters marrying Baptists caused him to move his family from PA to NC. How would history be changed if Daniel Boone hadn't accompanied his family to North Carolina. Would he still have become the famous Pioneer and Frontiersman who helped settle Kentucky? I seriously doubt it. And of course Sarah & John Wilcoxson took part in that settlement.  
  
Both John Greer and his son Benjamin were an integral part of the earliest history of Wilkes Co NC. John was appointed Justice of the Peace at the first meeting of the Wilkes County court. His son Benjamin was appointed Constable of Moravian Creek (Moravian Falls ) at the same time.  
  
When you look at Wilkes records for Hannah Cartwright you will see she was apprenticed to James Gay. While searching through the Wilkes Court Minutes I saw that James Gray and Benjamin Greer served together as jurors. This got me to thinking. Is it possible that Benjamin's son William knew Hannah Cartwright because she was apprenticed to one of his father's friends, James Gray? Just speculation on my part but it got me to thinking. Interesting things and coincidences found while coming through old court records.  
  
Well enough prattling for now. Hope you find the information I am sending useful. If there is information there that is worthy of posting on the family site please feel free to do so. I am not that adept at adding information on web sites.  
  
Cousin Gary  
Gary O. HodgesGlenn,

I reviewed the postings on the forum. Finally figured out how to download the attachments from the site.  There is just one thing that may need to be clarified. On the large document on Benjamin Greer, the author/researcher is Dorthy Grissom Mack, the senior genealogist of the Boone Society. My Cousin Dorthy is a descendant of Sarah Boone Wilcoxson’s brother. She has no Greer connection but created this document for me and other descendants of Nancy Wilcoxson Greer and her husband Benjamin. I have her permission to distribute it. Cousin Dorthy does research on all the “Allied Families” that married into the Boone Family. She is a treasure trove of information on all these families.

Cousin Dorthy creates these kinds of documents for several people who contact her concerning their connection with the Boone family. The first time I contacted her she said it was refreshing actually corresponding with a fellow Boone and not the plethora of “wannabees” who are hoping they have family connections. Dorthy and I became quite close and she has done research for me on several of my ancestor lines. I also share my research with her and it goes into her vast data base. You will see that there is personal information from/about me in the Benjamin Greer documents because she created it primarily for me.

I hope you are enjoying the research information I have sent you so far. I have quite a bit on the Wilcoxsons also starting with John who married Sarah Boone. Cousin Dorthy created some research documents for me on this family. She even took the effort to create some for my line farther down in the Wilcoxson/Wilcox line for Samuel Wilcoxson and William M Wilcoxson/Wilcox. If you wish, I can send you more on the Wilcoxson/Boone family. Not sure just how much would be interesting to fellow Benjamin Greer descendants.

I think I sent you the RW Pension application information on Alvin & John Church. Their applications mention serving under “Captain” Benjamin Greer so those  are additional sources that confirm his highest rank in the Wilkes Co NC Militia, that of a Captain. We can talk all we want about Benjamin supposedly participating in the Battle of Kings Mountain and him firing the fatal shot at Major Ferguson. We just can’t find proof of those. Or at least I have come up with a dry hole on that. We do have proof positive of Benjamin Being a Captain, though. I also have the earliest Wilkes Co NC Court Minutes that refer to both Benjamin Greer and his father john Greer. They were founding members of Wilkes County NC, formed in 1778. I found my Wilkes roots interesting since I worked there for a couple of years, went to community college there, and my wife is from Wilkes.

The funny thing about the RW pension applications of Alvin & John Church Jr.  is I was doing research on the sons of John Church Sr (Yankee John) at the time. I was and am trying to find documentation on my line from two of Alvin & John Jr’s brothers. One is an ancestor on my Hodges side and the other on my McGuire side. It was sheer happenstance that Benjamin Greer is mentioned in their applications. He is a Wilcoxson ancestor not a McGuire or Church ancestor. I would love to be able to prove my line to Yankee John Church. It’s going to be a hard row to hoe on that.

Gary

**From:** Glenn Holliman [mailto:[glennhistory@gmail.com](mailto:glennhistory@gmail.com)]

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Glenn,

I have Benjamin’s death information from two sourced including Find a Gave as died on 23 October 1816 in Green River, Green Co, KY at age 70, burial site unknown.

I will have to do some research on just where Riddle’s place is. I think I have an old photo somewhere. That would be a good field trip. Will send more if I find it.

The old Wilkes Courthouse is now a county museum. Twas in that very courthouse, when the Tory Oak still stood out front, that I obtained the license to marry Elogene Wooten. Even dated a young lass who worked in a furniture store across from the courthouse. That was during a time when my sweetie, Elogene Wooten, and I were broke up for a while. We got back together and 42 years later still married. Lucky guy, I am.

I have heard that the record of Ben firing the fatal shot is in Col Lenoir’s memoirs or RW Pension application. I looked at the pension application and found nothing. Lenoir’s papers are archived somewhere, possibly the Duke University Library. I have seen varying bits of information on how many bullets Ferguson took. He was hit as many as ten times so the story goes. I wonder if either of his mistresses, who accompanied him on his forays into the Carolinas, held a grudge against Ben. Seems one was captured at the Battle of Kings Mountain and the other escaped on horseback.

I never looked into Mary Morris. Most of my digging is focused on my direct line. Now marriages at that age were not uncommon. I think one of Elogene’s aunts married at the age of 14, back in Wilkes, over 65 years ago.

I have looked into Benjamin’s son William Greer, his wife, and of course their daughter Fannie. That line is my link to my Uncle Benjamin who is also a 5th great grandfather. Having siblings as direct ancestors gets one’s head spilling a bit. Or to paraphrase what Marion Wilcox said in his journal “I might have too much Greer blood in me”. Marion was talking about his uncle William Wilcox, Rev Billy, who was my great-great grandfather. Now the laugh was on Marion, as I see it, he had the same Greer blood because his father was William’s brother.

I have pursued William Greer’s wife Hannah Cartwrights line as much as I can. Not much Joseph Cartwright or his wife Eve Miller. Tried to contact a Cartwright researcher who is supposed to have more on them but no luck getting a reply yet. Joseph Cartwright was  RW soldier, serving under Capt. Lenoir in the Wilkes Militia. He died in 1778 and his wife probably in 1777. Both his son Joseph and daughter Hannah were apprenticed out as orphans. I found it interesting that the man Hannah was apprenticed out to served on jury duty with Ben Greer many times in 1778-1779. Could Ben’s association with this man be the way Ben’s son William met Hannah Cartwright? Speculation on my part but digging in old Wilkes Court records hints at lots of things. And I am not talking about a “Greer Hint” but a hint concerning Ben’s son William and his eventual wife.

I am looking forward to the three day weekend. Though I am not a Colombian, I still will take Columbus Day off. It’s a federal holiday. Will eventually be paid for it and the other three days off if those clowns at Foggy bottom get their acts together.

Cousin Gary