My name is Jennifer Knight Bundy and I’m writing from Russell Co, VA. An email about touring family sites in Watauga and Ashe counties in June made its way to me from one of my cousins, Shirley Sorrell. I’m also a descendant of Isaac and Caroline Wilson and am interested in the agenda mentioned.  I’ve been to the Oscar Wilson cemetery but wondered if I could come to some of the other sites. Has the full itinerary been planned? I appreciate any information you can give me.

Sincerely,

Jennifer

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| |  | | --- | | Jennifer, We would love to have you! An itinerary is located at http://fwosbo... | | | |

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Glenn,

Thanks so much for your reply, I’m looking forward to attending. Hope you have a wonderful trip across the pond.

Sincerely,

Jennifer

Jennifer,

Thanks for filling out the information form which arrived recently. You are descended through the Donnellys which makes you close kin to Shirley Sorrell, I think. I probably asked you but do you have any idea of the name Torrence which is the name of your great grandmother. My grandmother was named Mayme Torrence Osborne, and my mother does not know the origin of the name. It has to be a family hand-me- down; females I don't think were often named Torrence in the 19th century?

I would love to post the photos of Bruce and Torrence if you and your mother do not object? Scan them, and email to me along with copy identifying every one. If you could draw a family tree, we would have a nice article to preserve memories from your side of the tree.

I am posting photos of the tour every ten days or so. Good to hear from you.

Glenn

2 attachments — Download all attachments View all images Share all images

2012 6 Jefferson, NC Charles and Chase Bundy at lunch.JPG

1188K View Share Download

2012 6 Jefferson, NC Charles, Chase and Jennifer Bundy at museum.JPG

1108K View Share Download

Reply

jennifer Bundy

Hi Glenn, nice to hear from you. I was in NC this weekend and asked Ruth, one...Aug 5

That photo looks to me like it might be in the field by the Donnelly house, next to the store. I’ll have to compare it next time I’m there. My home phone is 276-889-1858. My cell is 276-591-7219, I’m usually near one or the other. I’d be happy to chat, I knew some of the people in the book during my childhood. The ones I don’t know, Shirley Sorrell or my aunt Ruth probably do. I have a lot more pictures I need to sort through this winter with my mother.

Sincerely,

Jennifer

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

Sent: Monday, September 10, 2012

Jennifer Bundy

enn, nice to hear from you. I was in NC this weekend and asked Ruth, one of Torrence's daughters if she knew where the name came from and she did not know and couldn't think of anyone she knew that her mother was named after. It seems reasonable that there might have been someone, I agree it is unusual. The pictures of Bruce and Torrence take up several albums, I'll try to look at them this week and scan some of the best ones. It's been awhile since I looked at them, but they do need to be scanned. I liked your post of our tour, thanks for doing that. I was also wondering if you know where Benjamin Greer, Jesse's father, is buried?

Sincerely,

Jennifer

Benjamin is buried in Kentucky where he went in the early 1800s. It is in his...

Benjamin is buried in Kentucky where he went in the early 1800s. It is in his biography on the blog, but can't pull it out right now. He is buried on the farm of one of his daughters, by his second marriage I believe. Would love to do an article on your side of the tree. Glenn

Glenn,

I finally got some of the pictures scanned and am attaching them. I like your blog, I’ve been reading about Benjamin Greer on it today. The pictures are as follows (left to right):

Pic1: Flora Latham Donnelly, Gustavus Donnelly (parents of Bruce Donnelly), Robert Wilson(son of Isaac and Caroline Greer Wilson), Ellen Wilson (parents of Torrance Wilson who married Bruce Donnelly)

Pic2: Children of Robert and Ellen Wilson L to R: Lee, Witt, Edna, Edgar, Neva, Oscar, Torrance

Pic3: Another of same children L to R: Witt, Oscar, Edgar, Lee, Torrance, Edna, Neva

Pic4: Bruce and Torrance Wilson Donnelly on their 50th wedding anniversary

Pic5: Bruce and Torrance with their children on their 50th anniversary L to R: Joe, Grace, Raymond, Virginia (my grandmother), Torrance, Annabelle, Bruce, Margaret, Ruth.

I’ll have to work on drawing the family tree. I’ll try sometime in the next month to do that.

Glenn,

That photo looks to me like it might be in the field by the Donnelly house, next to the store. I’ll have to compare it next time I’m there. My home phone is 276-889-1858. My cell is 276-591-7219, I’m usually near one or the other. I’d be happy to chat, I knew some of the people in the book during my childhood. The ones I don’t know, Shirley Sorrell or my aunt Ruth probably do. I have a lot more pictures I need to sort through this winter with my mother.

Sincerely,

Glenn,

Both articles look very nice to me. I don’t think the Donnellys and Wilsons were next door neighbors, though they were in the same community. I think the Donnellys lived at Sutherland and the Wilsons at Green Valley, but let me check on that with my mother. I do know there was some rivalry and political differences of opinion between the two families. Torrance’s parents were opposed to her marrying Bruce. Their first attempt at elopement failed because her mother found the letter he wrote to her planning it. When she threw her clothes out the window in the middle of the night to leave, her father was on the ground waiting. However, their next attempt was successful and they rode over the hills into TN to marry and then spent several days on the run from her family. About the Donnellys, I think we have our genealogy recorded back to two brothers in Ireland, and I think my mother has that book. Bruce and Torrance only had 7 children, who are all in the photo # 5 that I sent. My grandmother was Virginia, fourth from the left. I’ll find out more specifics this weekend and e-mail you back. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Jennifer

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Hi Glenn,

I’m fairly sure her name was spelled Torrence, after looking at the SS Death Index and grave records.

I also have the children’s spouses’ names, I don’t think I ever sent you those like I meant to, so here goes:

Bruce Charles Donnelly 10/16/1893 - 11/1/1989 married Torrence Lillian Wilson 12/18/1899 – 8/10/1986

Their Children:

Grace Elizabeth Donnelly 11/26/1916 – 1/14/1998 married Conley Argus Wilson 10/3/1909 – 1/3/1994

2nd late marriage to Ed Wallace, I could not find dates for him.

Raymond Charles Donnelly 9/25/1919 – 4/3/2002 married Edith Irene Younce 4/15/1923 – 5/27/1989

Virginia Dare Donnelly 7/2/1921 – 2/26/2008 married (1) Morris Franklin Lewis 7/13/1917 – 10/20/2003 [my grandfather] (2) Burl Ray Winebarger 7/3/1915 – 7/5/1969 (3) James Louis Johnson 1/1/1929 – 6/26/1975 (4) and (5) twice married Willard Glenn Lewis 10/2/1916 – 10/10/2004

Anna Belle Donnelly 3/22/1923- married Tipton Ragan 5/10/1918 – 11/21/1990

Ruth Frances Donnelly 5/2/1925- married Meredith Brooks Duncan 1/20/1924 – 8/17/1969

Margaret Donnelly 6/18/1930- married James Kermit Wallace 12/14/1926 – 10/25/2007

Joseph Bruce Donnelly 10/28/1932 – 1/4/2012 married Joann Wallace – she is living but I don’t know birth date

The dates I have for Sara Ellen Wilson are 3/6/1866 – 3/1/1952. I’m attaching a picture of Bruce and Torrence’s home and the Donnelly store as it looks today. It was taken Fall of 2012 by my cousin Martha Duncan Nelson, daughter of Ruth Donnelly. The article you attached looks good to me, I enjoy reading your posts, thanks for writing them! Cousin Shirley and I have been scanning more pictures this week, so many that need preserved.

Sincerely,

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| |  | | --- | | Jennifer Bundy | |  |  |  |
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Glenn,

Regarding Bob & Ellen Wilson’s children, here is what my mother remembers: (no particular order)

 Ed went west and first worked for a large sheep and/or cattle ranch. Later he bought his own ranch there and ran it successfully. He married twice (Shirley sent his 1st marriage story earlier) but had no children. Mom stayed with Ed & Hattie a lot as a child in Oregon, and remembers them as wonderful loving people who were very good to her. She learned about Ed’s first marriage many years later. She thinks he met Hattie when he worked on the first ranch, and said Hattie was a cook on that ranch.

 Witt also went west and worked for a while, but he came back to NC and farmed on Bob’s farm. He and Neva lived at home with Bob & Ellen and farmed and took care of their parents.

 Neva lived at home until her parents and Witt had died. She was about 50 when she married a Hash and moved to Tennessee with her husband. After his death, she came back to NC and lived in Jefferson for many years.

 Edna married Charles Osborne and they lived on the Peak Rd. at Creston and farmed.

 Oscar farmed in the hollow at Creston where Isaac and Caroline had lived.

 Torrence and Bruce farmed at Creston. Bruce also ran a small country store, but Mom thinks he quit the store after his children were all grown. She doesn’t remember the store when it was operating. The one there now was built where the old store was, by their son Joe. I can remember the old store building there when I was growing up, but we weren’t supposed to go inside , it was an old run down building.

 Lee went west and worked for one of the sheep ranches, near an Indian reservation but Mom doesn’t know which one. His wife and children lived in Creston and he came back periodically to see them but did not work in NC.

I’m sending a picture of Bob and Ellen’s home, where Torrence eloped from. It was taken in the 70s when my parents lived there.

Also attaching pics of Bruce & Torrence’s home and of Virginia Donnelly and Morris Lewis with my mother at about 1 yr. old, so probably Spring of 1948, they separated shortly after this. I read parts of his book over the weekend, pretty much every war time atrocity you can imagine, he witnessed and survived, amazingly.

Jennifer

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