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| **Jeff Hardgrave <captainjeff@yachtmimi.com>**  |

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**Good Evening….I have very much enjoyed following your family blog…a very impressive amount of information.   My link to your family history goes way back to John Greer, from Maryland, who died in Wilkes County.  He would be our common ancestor….one of his daughters, Sarah Greer, was a brother to your ancestor….Benjamin Greer.   Sarah Husband was Francis Hardgrave…lots of common history with the Greer family, both in Wilkes County, and later in Davidson County Tennessee.  Another name in the mix was a sister of Sarah’s and Benjamin’s….Hannah Greer, who was married to Abraham Louis (Lewis) DeMoss.  John, Lewis and Francis had many dealings with each other….Francis and Sarah lived close by to John near Cub Creek…Francis was a bondsman for Benjamin and Sarah’s brother Jesse Greer’s marriage to Judith Hampton.  Francis also served in the NC Militia at the same time as Benjamin and Jesse….he was a captain and later Major during that period.  BTW, just as the Greer name has several spellings, the Hardgrave name is also spelled many ways….some of which are Hargrave, Hartgrave, Hargrove, Hartgrove…all of those can also have an ‘s’ at the end.  I believe Francis and Sarah met in Staunton, VA and moved south a the same time many of the Greer family headed that way.**

**Somewhere in the website it encouraged other “cousin’s” to participate…not sure if you are the one to start with.  Unfortunately, not able to attend the July function.**

**Some info follows…much of which comes from Ralph Terry’s site on the Greer’s….**

**Regards, Jeffrey Hardgrave**

**Jesse Greer married Judith Hampton, 14 August 1779. Bondsmen were Aquilla Greer and Francis Hardgrave." (Wilkes County, North Carolina marriage records.)**

**"We late find in the Wilkes County Land Entry Book for 1778 - 1781, under the date 4 March 1778 (page 75): "Benjamine 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 land was surveyed on 8 October 1789 but the names of the chain bearers are not given. A few years later Benjamine moved to the area that is now Watauga County, entering claimes to tracts on the south fork of New River in 1781 and 1789.

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

**"Like his son, Benjamine, John was not able to make a formal entry for the lands he cleared in Wilkes until 1778. Then the Wilkes County Land Entry Book records two entries on 20 April 1778 (page 61): "John Greyor Sr. enters 350 acres ... on both sides the main Road and Joining Quiller grayer on the South Side ...," and (page 62): "John Greyor Senr. enters 200 acres ... on both sides of Cub Creek, joining Jacob Hamptons at the upper End and Capt Francis Hartgraves at the lower end." The second of these tracts was granted on 3 March 1779 (Wilkes #6, photostat attached [in book]). Jacob Hampton and Joel Hampton were the chain bearers for the survey. The other was granted 23 October 1782 (Wilkes #432, photostat attached [in book] with Jesse Greer and Jacob Hampton as chain bearers.**

**"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.)**

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| **Glenn Holliman <glennhistory@gmail.com>**  |

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**Jeff, this is delightful.  Yes, we share a common Greer lineage. I am attaching a document I wrote about the family several years ago in which we have some shared great grandparents.**

**Your information is so comprehensive that I am wondering if you would let me use it as a blog?  Happy to place your name on it. This needs to be shared.**

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**Great to hear from you.  This is the joy of the Internet to share stories with distant cousins one would have never met in an earlier generation.**

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| **Jeff Hardgrave**  |

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**Glen…before I had a chance to send this, I received a message from Gary, so I have copied him…you guys are quick!**

**Glenn…a great prompt reply!   Our connection through the Greer family has only recently become to be accepted as true in the last few years.  The original thought was that our ‘Sarah’s’ last name was Skelton, and not Greer…a rather well know genealogist back in the 30’s (?) came up with that conclusion…absolutely no information is available to substantiate that assumption, but the Hardgrave researchers continue to hold to that assumption….an interesting note is that Francis and Sarah had a son named with the first name of Skelton, and Lewis and Hannah DeMoss had a son named Skelton DeMoss…I think both Skeltons were born close to the same time.   (Hannah and Sarah are Greer sisters, with Benjamin and Jesse amongst others were brothers)  As you well know, the Greer family has a habit of using the same names over and over!   Numerous other family names seem to keep popping up from the 1750’s through even after the move to Wilkes and then on to Tennessee….Low/Lowe I think even dates back to the late 1600’s/early 1700’s?  That name also comes up in Davidson county…one of Francis’s sons married a Greer in Tennessee (Ann?)   not sure if that is part of the same Greer Family, but I do know that some of the Greer family other than Sarah and Hannah made the migration from Wilkes to Davidson in the late 1790’s/early 1800’s (along with Lewis and Hannah DeMoss, who became somewhat prominent)   This was somewhat early in the western migration…probably following a trail Daniel Boone blazed….I am assuming perhaps over and through  the Cumberland Gap?  They spent one year in Kentucky before heading on to Davidson County, TN.**

**You can use whatever of this you care to…it was written very quickly.  I am a yacht captain, and travel a lot in my profession…I am currently based in Minnesota (not a typical yachting destination) for the summer….most of the other information I have is at my home in the Ft Lauderdale area.  I am more of an observer in the geneology  pursuit.  My brother Terry is more of the expert, although for some reason he has not spent much time on the Greer link…I may have him get in contact with you…I will certainly share your info.  I don’t know why, but that period of time….especially the Wilkes period has really fascinated me, and then the Davidson County period is a close second.   BTW, Davidson County later developed or is near to what is now known as Nashville.**

**I assume you must be familiar with Ralph Terry’s work?  If I am not mistaken, through his research, he discovered that both he and his wife share some Greer lineage. Much of what I copied and pasted came from his site…probably a lot more in there, especially from a Greer standpoint.  I am also including a link to a site for the Day family…I assume you are already aware of it, but if not, more information that may be helpful.** [**http://www.calweb.com/~wally/darke/w-day1.htm**](http://www.calweb.com/~wally/darke/w-day1.htm)

**Another link, lots of Greer info (I believe Greer may be the most common name in all of the ancestry names listed)…lots of info here** [**http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=AHN&db=fletcher&id=I18951**](http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=AHN&db=fletcher&id=I18951)

**Another interesting link…Day is on this list….not sure why Greer isn’t…also noticed Stansbury…your family?  This may be interesting if you haven’t seen it.**

[**http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdannear/firstfam/firstfam.htm**](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdannear/firstfam/firstfam.htm)

**Maybe some info here…lots of Greer info but perhaps much of the info follows and earlier branch in the Greer family.**

[**http://mearsm2.tripod.com/~MearsM2/Greer.html**](http://mearsm2.tripod.com/~MearsM2/Greer.html)

**sorry if this is all old news…maybe some sort of interesting new info will pop up!  The Greer side of life was certainly prolific!**

**From: Glenn Holliman [mailto:****glennhistory@gmail.com****]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 5:15 AM
To: Jeff Hargrave
Subject: Fwd: FW: Greer Family History**

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**Glenn**

**On Tue, Jul 15, 2014 at 12:17 AM, Jeff Hardgrave <****captainjeff@yachtmimi.com****> wrote:**

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

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| **Jeff Hardgrave**  |

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**Great work by both of you on your family history’s.  As mentioned before…the Greer’s were very prolific!**

**Interesting…as a child in San Diego, I had a good friend with the last name Hodges, and later on a good friend with the last name of Greer!**

**I have not had the pleasure of serving in the Military, but working as a Yacht Captain is my third career (23 years)…I have traveled extensively in the Caribbean, and have been as far west as New Zealand, and as far east as Greece…you mentioned Italy…would that have been near Naples?  I have been through the Panama Canal three times.**

**Have included a photo of myself…**

**I do wish to indicate again how professional the website is…**

**Jeff**

**A few more links…I hope I am not overdoing…**

[**http://www.ncgenweb.us/wilkes/wills/wills\_1.htm**](http://www.ncgenweb.us/wilkes/wills/wills_1.htm)

**this first link is interesting…for once, Francis’s full name is correct…Benj. Greer’s name is spelled Griar…another name I have mentioned before, Lewis DeMoss is spelled Darnoss.**

**I know the Low/Lowe family had a strong early connection to the Greer family all the way back to Maryland….I also know Lowe’s started in Wilkesboro…any connection?**

**This version of the will seems to include all the original spelling…**

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| **------------------------------------**  |
| **Will of WILLIAM LOW**June Term 1780 |
| Wilkes County, North CarolinaWill Book 1, Page 44 |
|   |
| In the Name of God AmenI WILLIAM LOW of Wilkes County and province of North Carolina being in perfect soundness of mind memory and calling to mind that all flesh must dy do make this my Last will and Testament viz,First I bequeath my Soul to God who gave it and my Body to the Earth to be buried in a decent manner at the Discretion of my Executors hereof to be namedFirst my will is that all my just debts be lawfully paid and as for my worldly Estate as God has been graciously please to bless me I dispose of as followeth VizMy will is that my beloved wife MARY LOW have and Injoy all my Estate both Personal and Real during her natural life or widowhood and after her decease or Marriage my will is that I leive to my son ISAAC LOW begotten by the body of my last wife MARY one tract or parcell of land containing two hundred acres lying and being on the right hand Little fork of Cub Creek My will is that I lieve to my son ISEAH LOW & my son JOHN LOW & my son DAVID LOW begotten by the body of my last wife, MARY one tract or parcell of land containing three hundred and Sixty acres to be equally divided between the three it being the plantation whereon I now live And my will is that the remainer of my Estate be sold and equally divided between all my children begotten by the body of my last wife MARY. My will is that I leave to STEPHEN LOW son fo SAMUEL LOW deceased one tract of land containing one hundred and nine & a half acres in Bedford County in Virginia lying and being on Fork Creek adjoining to the Place that I myself lived on And I do appoint my beloved wife MARY my True and Lawfull Executor of this my Last Will & Testament ralessing  all other wills do acknowledge this to be my Last will and Testament in witness whereof I have set my hand this 12 day of January 1780 in the presence of TestesWILLIAM LOW ("X" his mark)FRANCIS HARDGRAVEBENJA. GRIARLEWIS DARNOSS I just ran across this tonight…have never seen anything on this…this site does not show up well, at least on BING…type seems to get scrambled a little.  I believe the people listed (Francis is included) the boundary lines of the new county…another group of people were established later that year to the first government |

[**http://archive.org/stream/historicalsketch01crou/historicalsketch01crou\_djvu.txt**](http://archive.org/stream/historicalsketch01crou/historicalsketch01crou_djvu.txt)

**- HISTORICAL SKETCHES**

**founded in 1778 by John Parks, John Barton, Cf \_**

**Gordon, Francis Hardgrave, Rowland Jiidd, Georgia**

**Morris and John Witherspoon, who were appointed**

**bv the General Assembly to select a county seat for**

**\ViLk'3s county. It is about 175 miles north-west of**

**Raleigh.**

**The committee appointed by the General Assem-**

**bly to survey the dividing line between Wilkes and**

**Surry made the following report of their work,**

**which is the first paper recorded in the county**

**records : •**

**Wilkes County Line, &c,**

**From:** **gary.hodges1@verizon.net** **[mailto:****gary.hodges1@verizon.net****]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 12:56 PM
To:** **captainjeff@yachtmimi.com** **Subject: Re: RE: FW: Greer Family History**

**Jeff,**

**Thanks for the links. I have seen a couple of them but all additional links are appreciated.**

**I sent my first message to you so soon because I am retired and keep up with e-mails using my smarty-pants phone. It's easier than firing up my laptop a lot.**

**I am attaching a Greer document I worked up a while back. It isn't comprehensive but concentrates on my family line. I have my direct ancestors underlined. I didn't continue the Greer line past Fannie Greer who married her cousin Isaiah Wilcoxson. Other Greer family members have done more research on the other lines. Many of the participants of our blog are descendants of Nancy Wilcoxson & Benjamin Greer. I hope you and terry can use it. I sent it in Word 2010 so you may be able to copy/paste portions as you see fit. A couple of my cousins have used portions of it as a skeleton for their own documents.**

**It seems given names for children are often used by siblings and in several subsequent generations. Sarah is one of those given names that was a bane in my research when I started. It took quite a whole for me to get the hang of following the right Sarah. In olden days it was common for daughters to be named for their mothers. In my Boone/Wilcoxson/Wilcox line there are at least four sequential generations where daughters are named for their mother, especially Sarah. Naming sons for their fathers was just as prevalent as daughters for their mothers. That can get confusing. And sons names are recycled at an equal rate to daughters. Samuel is one of those names I found confusing early on. And William was equally confusing.**

**I retired from civil service earlier this year. I was a Training Specialist for the Navy at Naval Station Norfolk. I also retired from the Air Force Reserve in 2000. Been reaping benefits from that since 2007. I also worked at Newport News Shipbuilding for ten years and that vested me inn their retirement system.**

**It was about four years ago I traced my roots back many generations. I was working on researching Civil War veteran ancestors. I  followed a thread on my Wilcox line and found the Greer and Boone connections. I was elated to find I had five direct ancestors who were Revolutionary War Patriots, including Sarah Boone Wilcoxson, the mother of Nancy Wilcoxson who married Benjamin Greer. When I found Nancy's granddaughter Fannie Greer married her second cousin Isaiah Wilcoxson It took me a while to get that straight. Found I was a direct descendant of two of Sarah Boone & John Wilcoxsons  children. Both Nancy Wilcoxson Greer and her brother Samuel Wilcoxson. Found out that marriages between first and second cousins was not rare. this is true in the Wilcoxson and Greer families.**

**Some of our Greer kin did migrate to TN. That line has members still in TN and some in KY. I believe we have members of our blog who are of that line. Years ago a Greer was hired at the Naval Air Terminal where I worked. We started comparing family lines after he found out I grew up in Boone, NC. He grew up just across the state line in Johnson Co. TN. When the dust settled we discovered we were both descendants of Nancy Wilcoxon & Benjamin Greer. Having Hodges kin in Johnson Co. I was very familiar with where he grew up and his family still has property. The reason why my cousin Malcolm Greer wound up in Norfolk was that was where he retired from the Navy.**

**I hope your brother Terry gets in touch with us. There seems to be at least one person in each generation who becomes the family genealogist. I became the de-facto one for my Hodges and Wilcox families.**

**I also attached a photo of myself I use for various purposes. Had my daughter, the photographer, take it for me to send to a few organizations who requested an official photo. Often makes it easier for people to relate when they know what the person they are corresponding with looks like. To date I haven't scared off any correspondents.**

**I have lived most of my life in Virginia and North Carolina. Spent time overseas during my AF career but only had those two states as permanent residences. I was born inn Virginia, moved with my mother to Watauga Co. NC, and returned to Virginia after graduating Appalachian State University in Boone. Both my parents grew up in Watauga, Mother in Boone and dad in the Mabel community. The AF offered the opportunity to visit Italy, Panama Canal Zone, Germany, Turkey, The United Kingdom, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. Made day trips to Austria, Iraq, Nicaragua, Switzerland, and Lichtenstein. Would have never been able to travel to those places had it not been for the AF. I joke I have been in nearly as many countries as states in the USA. My family vacationed in Kentucky last month, the first time we did more than just pass through. We attended the Boone Society family reunion in Pineville.**

**Take care.**

**Cousin Gary**

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**On 07/15/14, Jeff Hardgrave<****captainjeff@yachtmimi.com****> wrote:**

**Glen…before I had a chance to send this, I received a message from Gary, so I have copied him…you guys are quick!**

**Glenn…a great prompt reply!   Our connection through the Greer family has only recently become to be accepted as true in the last few years.  The original thought was that our ‘Sarah’s’ last name was Skelton, and not Greer…a rather well know genealogist back in the 30’s (?) came up with that conclusion…absolutely no information is available to substantiate that assumption, but the Hardgrave researchers continue to hold to that assumption….an interesting note is that Francis and Sarah had a son named with the first name of Skelton, and Lewis and Hannah DeMoss had a son named Skelton DeMoss…I think both Skeltons were born close to the same time.   (Hannah and Sarah are Greer sisters, with Benjamin and Jesse amongst others were brothers)  As you well know, the Greer family has a habit of using the same names over and over!   Numerous other family names seem to keep popping up from the 1750’s through even after the move to Wilkes and then on to Tennessee….Low/Lowe I think even dates back to the late 1600’s/early 1700’s?  That name also comes up in Davidson county…one of Francis’s sons married a Greer in Tennessee (Ann?)   not sure if that is part of the same Greer Family, but I do know that some of the Greer family other than Sarah and Hannah made the migration from Wilkes to Davidson in the late 1790’s/early 1800’s (along with Lewis and Hannah DeMoss, who became somewhat prominent)   This was somewhat early in the western migration…probably following a trail Daniel Boone blazed….I am assuming perhaps over and through  the Cumberland Gap?  They spent one year in Kentucky before heading on to Davidson County, TN.**

**You can use whatever of this you care to…it was written very quickly.  I am a yacht captain, and travel a lot in my profession…I am currently based in Minnesota (not a typical yachting destination) for the summer….most of the other information I have is at my home in the Ft Lauderdale area.  I am more of an observer in the geneology  pursuit.  My brother Terry is more of the expert, although for some reason he has not spent much time on the Greer link…I may have him get in contact with you…I will certainly share your info.  I don’t know why, but that period of time….especially the Wilkes period has really fascinated me, and then the Davidson County period is a close second.   BTW, Davidson County later developed or is near to what is now known as Nashville.**

**I assume you must be familiar with Ralph Terry’s work?  If I am not mistaken, through his research, he discovered that both he and his wife share some Greer lineage. Much of what I copied and pasted came from his site…probably a lot more in there, especially from a Greer standpoint.  I am also including a link to a site for the Day family…I assume you are already aware of it, but if not, more information that may be helpful.** [**http://www.calweb.com/~wally/darke/w-day1.htm**](http://www.calweb.com/~wally/darke/w-day1.htm)

**Another link, lots of Greer info (I believe Greer may be the most common name in all of the ancestry names listed)…lots of info here** [**http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=AHN&db=fletcher&id=I18951**](http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=AHN&db=fletcher&id=I18951)

**Another interesting link…Day is on this list….not sure why Greer isn’t…also noticed Stansbury…your family?  This may be interesting if you haven’t seen it.**

[**http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdannear/firstfam/firstfam.htm**](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdannear/firstfam/firstfam.htm)

**Maybe some info here…lots of Greer info but perhaps much of the info follows and earlier branch in the Greer family.**

[**http://mearsm2.tripod.com/~MearsM2/Greer.html**](http://mearsm2.tripod.com/~MearsM2/Greer.html)

**sorry if this is all old news…maybe some sort of interesting new info will pop up!  The Greer side of life was certainly prolific!**

**From: Glenn Holliman [****mailto:glennhistory@gmail.com****]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 5:15 AM
To: Jeff Hargrave
Subject: Fwd: FW: Greer Family History**

**Jeff, this is delightful.  Yes, we share a common Greer lineage. I am attaching a document I wrote about the family several years ago in which we have some shared great grandparents.**

**Your information is so comprehensive that I am wondering if you would let me use it as a blog?  Happy to place your name on it. This needs to be shared.**

**I have a copy of the will of John Greer, Sr. but have never posted it.  Do you have a photo of yourself we could use in the blog?**

**Great to hear from you.  This is the joy of the Internet to share stories with distant cousins one would have never met in an earlier generation.**

**Glenn**

**On Tue, Jul 15, 2014 at 12:17 AM, Jeff Hardgrave <****captainjeff@yachtmimi.com****> wrote:**

**Good Evening….I have very much enjoyed following your family blog…a very impressive amount of information.   My link to your family history goes way back to John Greer, from Maryland, who died in Wilkes County.  He would be our common ancestor….one of his daughters, Sarah Greer, was a brother to your ancestor….Benjamin Greer.   Sarah Husband was Francis Hardgrave…lots of common history with the Greer family, both in Wilkes County, and later in Davidson County Tennessee.  Another name in the mix was a sister of Sarah’s and Benjamin’s….Hannah Greer, who was married to Abraham Louis (Lewis) DeMoss.  John, Lewis and Francis had many dealings with each other….Francis and Sarah lived close by to John near Cub Creek…Francis was a bondsman for Benjamin and Sarah’s brother Jesse Greer’s marriage to Judith Hampton.  Francis also served in the NC Militia at the same time as Benjamin and Jesse….he was a captain and later Major during that period.  BTW, just as the Greer name has several spellings, the Hardgrave name is also spelled many ways….some of which are Hargrave, Hartgrave, Hargrove, Hartgrove…all of those can also have an ‘s’ at the end.  I believe Francis and Sarah met in Staunton, VA and moved south a the same time many of the Greer family headed that way.**

**Somewhere in the website it encouraged other “cousin’s” to participate…not sure if you are the one to start with.  Unfortunately, not able to attend the July function.**

**Some info follows…much of which comes from Ralph Terry’s site on the Greer’s….**

**Regards, Jeffrey Hardgrave**

**Jesse Greer married Judith Hampton, 14 August 1779. Bondsmen were Aquilla Greer and Francis Hardgrave." (Wilkes County, North Carolina marriage records.)**

**"We late find in the Wilkes County Land Entry Book for 1778 - 1781, under the date 4 March 1778 (page 75): "Benjamine 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 land was surveyed on 8 October 1789 but the names of the chain bearers are not given. A few years later Benjamine moved to the area that is now Watauga County, entering claimes to tracts on the south fork of New River in 1781 and 1789.

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

**"Like his son, Benjamine, John was not able to make a formal entry for the lands he cleared in Wilkes until 1778. Then the Wilkes County Land Entry Book records two entries on 20 April 1778 (page 61): "John Greyor Sr. enters 350 acres ... on both sides the main Road and Joining Quiller grayer on the South Side ...," and (page 62): "John Greyor Senr. enters 200 acres ... on both sides of Cub Creek, joining Jacob Hamptons at the upper End and Capt Francis Hartgraves at the lower end." The second of these tracts was granted on 3 March 1779 (Wilkes #6, photostat attached [in book]). Jacob Hampton and Joel Hampton were the chain bearers for the survey. The other was granted 23 October 1782 (Wilkes #432, photostat attached [in book] with Jesse Greer and Jacob Hampton as chain bearers.**

**"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.)**

**Attachments area**

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