**THE GREER-WILSON FAMILIES**

**An Informal, Occasionally Irreverent, Brief History**

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(*For a less opinionated rendering with sources of the Greer-Wilson Families, please go to the Archives button at http://fwosborne.blogspot.com/.)*

**The Greers Were Scots**

We don’t quite know why **James Grierson**, born in 1627 left the Dumfries, Scotland area in 1677 around the age of 50*.*  *(This is pretty late in life to cross the North Atlantic on a rocky, leaky little sailboat and then to start clearing land from scratch. In the 1600s, most persons his age were not his age, but rather dead.)* Perhaps he was on the wrong side of one of those periodic Presbyterian religious issues when Christians did violence to other Christians or perhaps a relative ran him out of the family.

His father and ancestors, the **Lords of Lag** and other titles, were minor nobility. *(I have seen the remains of the crumbled Castle of Lag, and it did not have indoor plumbing. My wife saw it too and calls it a fixer-upper.)* His mother was a **Maxwell**, a family higher up the social stratum. One Maxwell ancestor had been King of the Scots, a Stuart. But going back to the 800s, one Grierson descendant was **Hugh the Poisoner**, an interesting title if ever there be one *(which suggests some challenges as he climbed the royal chain of command!)*.

The Maxwells kept climbing the social ladder, and one descendant became **Winston Churchill**, whom we proudly call a distant cousin *(oh, all right, a 10th cousin but it still counts).* *(Another descendant built a hotel in Nashville, Tennessee and served a spiced-up coffee. When Teddy Roosevelt dropped in for bacon and eggs one morning in the early 1900s, he had a cup of the brew and proclaimed it ‘Good to the last Drop’. That phrase would make a great marketing slogan.)*

James Grierson *(soon to be Grier and then Greer; there were spelling issues in those days)* showed up in the Chesapeake Bay area of Maryland, farmed, married and died soon after arriving *(but he did have a busy few years in the New World)*. He did manage to father one son, who went on to sire our side of the Greer family. Several John Greers followed over the next 70 or so years.

Joppa, Maryland, along the Gunpowder River, once the second largest port in North America, then a ghost town and now a 1960s residential development *(Joppa may have looked better in the early 1700s unless you are really, really fond of ranch style houses!),* was the Greer family home for two generations. Greers married Taylors and Days, to continue the line with some English DNA *(which may or may not have strengthened the family tree – depends on your viewpoint I suppose*).

By the 1740s, our branch of the Greer family was on the move south, heading into Virginia and eventually North Carolina where our story picks up speed *(and interest*). **Benjamin Greer**, a great, great grandson of the American founder, was born in 1746, married a grand daughter of **Squire Boone**, a lass named **Nancy Wilcoxson**. They were married at Old Fields, Rowan County, North Carolina. *(Yes,* ***Daniel Boone*** *is my generation’s 6th great uncle)*. They had many children before Nancy died in 1790. One of the sons was **Jesse Greer, Sr**. but more on him in a minute.

Benjamin, a leader in Wilkes County, North Carolina, fought the Cherokee (G*enerally burning their villages, food supplies and making their lives so miserable so they would sell more land to the white developers, oops I meant settlers.*) in the 1770s in what is now East Tennessee. In the early 1780s, Ben tangled with the British and their Tory followers. At the Battle of Kings Mountain in October 1780, Captain Greer led his company up the steep hill, hiding behind rocks and trees and dodging Tory bullets.

He is reported by one local historian as having pumped one of the lead slugs into British Major Patrick Ferguson. (*Ferguson was a fellow Scotsman who for some reason decided to wear a checkered duster coat, wave a saber as officers did and ride a large horse – not the most brilliant move if one wanted to survive a gun battle in the woods amongst 2,000 angry combatants.)*  Over 1,000 or so supporters of George III were vanquished that historic day, disrupting Lord Cornwallis’s plans and generally improving the morale of the Patriots.

Ben Greer, an irascible man by some accounts *(he once punched out a private for stealing his chewing tobacco)* served under a Col. Benjamin Cleveland, an irascible man by all accounts, who was kidnapped by Tories in what is now Ashe County in 1781. Our Ben led the posse that freed Cleveland , and strung up one William Riddle, the Tory leader, who found himself on the wrong side of history (*and the rope one might add).* *(There is supposedly a Riddle’s Ridge in Ashe County commemorating this bit of vigilantism but I have not found it yet.)* Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown a few months later and that was that. The Patriots went back to farming and having more children.

Twenty years later and several children later, still irascible, Ben fundamentally disagreed with the local fundamental Baptist Church about the consumption of fermented apple juice, and told the elders where they could take their theology. He took his to Kentucky, and died there in 1816, after living for a time with one of his many daughters.

Son **Jesse Greer, Senior**, must have inherited some of his father’s (*irascibility?)* spunk and energy. Jesse (1778 - 1869) in his 91 years lived from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War to the time of Reconstruction of the Southern States. He left home at age 16 in disagreement with his parents *(Hard to imagine Ben being patient with an adolescent but he did have a lot of them),* and eloped with Mary “Polly” Morris in 1800. Jesse, Jr. was 21, and the girl only 13. They made a go of the marriage *(Today Jesse would be jailed for corrupting a minor, statutory rape or worse)* and produced 17, yes 17, children. *(Evidently the couple was very compatible.)*

Like his Greer ancestors and most everyone else in 1800 America, Jesse Jr. was a farmer. His generation was caught up in the 2nd Great Awakening, an emotional, religious revival of Protestantism that swept the frontier and rural regions of the new, uncertain country in the early 1800s. The influence of this cultural phenomenon lives on today. Toss a rock twice in Ashe County, North Carolina, and you will hit some type of Baptist Church. (*Toss a second rock three times and you will strike a Methodist or Holiness Church!)*

He experienced a spiritual conversion experience in 1815, and as he wrote in his notebook, ‘the Gall of Bitterness’ fell away. Whatever were the sins of this emotional, evidently impulsive ancestor? Women, drink, horse stealing, gambling or swearing – all of the above? He admits to some of these ‘sins’ in his confession of repentance copied below. Cousin Annie Heaton of Elk Park, North Carolina has his notebook and words written in pencil, which evidently were copied by his son Jesse Greer, Jr. Here they are below with original spelling.

***A Smawl travil of Jesse Grear, Sr.***

*“He was born the son of Benjamine and Nancy Grear in Wilkes County North Carolina on the 14th November 1778. then traveled on to the year of maturity under a tender father and mother and at 16 years old I left my Parents much Against their will. then serving the Devil was all my delight. till the year 1800, then married Polly Morris which was born a daughter of Henry and Franky Morris on the 17th september 1787. then went on in the Gall of Bitteness as tho there was no soul to save or to be lost. til the year 1810, at the Baptism of Brother Benjamin, I Began to think that my soul must dwell with the rich man. then I betook my self to trying to pray for about ten months. But the Devil pursuaded me it was so hard that I could pray no longer. But betook myself to cursing and swearing and drinking and all kinds of sin til the year 1814. very Gardless we went to meeting to the Oldfeel [Old Field] meeting house but there was no ministry Came to preach. but as they thought proper that they should sing and pray one of them began and as I set I saw a small child about twelve or thirteen years old crying as if He would Breake her heart. and it seamed to strike me like a Clap of Thunder, to think that God was at work with such small Children and I still in the gall of bitterness then I went hence trying to pray. but it oppressed? to me that God would not hear my weak pertishion. I soon began to think that I had passed the day of grace and soon betook my self to my friends and to the people of god to see if they could give any Conslation. but I had to go moving through the wilderness until 1815. I had been from home and on my return home some hour in the night I thought if I was lost I would die a praying. and as I was trying to pray I thought that my Blessed Jesus meet with me and Bid me not fear. then I went home Rejoycing and praising God that I had Been lost But now was found. and in the time to follow his Companion Got a hope that she had made peace with god and we was Received in to the Baptist Church and was Baptised on the 4th Sunday in June 1815.”*

As we read his words today – he must have been a tormented soul – we sure hope he was happier. Whatever could his terrible sins had been? Maybe he neglected his children; he sure did not neglect his wife.

Mary and Jesse named one of their many sons (*surprise!*) **Jesse Greer, Jr**., who like everyone else in the family that date, became a farmer *(No professionals or business persons in our family until the 20th century, but then again in 1800, 97% of all Americans were farmers)*.

Jesse married **Frances Brown** *(whose father was named Francis, thus setting off the name ‘Frankie’ in the Greer family),* also of Ashe County, North Carolina. They did not have 17 children, but they had enough. It seems today that every other person in Western North Carolina is a Greer *(or a Wilson or Osborne)*.

One daughter, my generation’s great great grandmother, **Caroline Nancy Greer** (1828-1911), would have eight children herself. Jesse, Jr., wife Frankie and daughter Caroline would tough out the last year of the Civil War together, the two women confronting Union soldiers on occasion and giving them ‘what fer’. These two are my generation’s 3rd and 2nd great grandmothers. *(My 3rd great grandmother, Frankie Brown, in a fit of fury, charged a bayonet-armed Union soldier who was stealing her honey jar. Unarmed herself, this spunky woman suffered from a damaged hand that bothered for the rest of her life. The Union soldier, evidently a distant neighbor named Hans, well, he lived too but did not get the honey as the jar broke.)*

Caroline married a Wilson, **Isaac Wilson** (1822-1864), in 1849 and had a fifteen year marriage and seven children together. Let’s look now at the Wilson line and then rejoin this couple.

**We Know Less about the Wilsons**

The first Wilson we can identify is a **Charles Wilson** who probably emigrated from Pennsylvania to North Carolina prior to 1750. We do not know his birthplace or father's name, but he is possibly one of the tens of thousands of Scots-Irish who landed in Philadelphia between 1700 and 1750. We have no birth date on father Charles, but according to my great grandmother, Frankie Wilson Osborne’s diary, he is the father of **John Wilson**. *(But then again* ***Frankie Wilson Osborne****, my great grandmother, claimed in her diary that Charles came over on the Mayflower making him at least 180 years old when he died. Frankie never was good at numbers.)*

The son, **John Wilson,** was born in North Carolina in 1750 and John’s future wife, wife, **Sara,** unknown last name, found life in 1752, also in NC. The two married in 1770.

But back to Charles for a paragraph - in 1780, Charles Wilson, according to historian John Preston Arthur, was killed at the Battle of Guildford Court House during the Revolutionary War, fighting as an officer under General Nathaniel Greene. *(Good to have a hero in the family, but hated that he paid the supreme sacrifice.)* Local historian, James Preston Arthur states that Charles Wilson is a brother-in-law by marriage to the legendary General Greene. *(This writer has researched this and doubts this proposition because the famous general had no sisters, and it wasn’t fashionable in those days to marry someone of the same gender.)*  
 On November 2, 1787 in Rowan County, North Carolina, **Hiram Wilson** was born to John and Sara Wilson. His wife, **Nancy Smith** was born about 1786, also in Rowan. Hiram and Nancy married September 12, 1812 in Rowan County, but settled along Cove Creek in what is now Watauga County, North Carolina. John Wilson died in 1799. Cove Creek, near Zionsville and the Tennessee line would be a favorite place for Wilsons, Osbornes and Proffitts to live for the next several hundred years.  
  
 This Wilson couple had a son *(well, several sons of whom three had the carelessness to die in the Civil War)*, **Isaac Wilson**, born December 16, 1822, my generation’s great, great grandfather. He would marry **Caroline Nancy Greer** in Ashe County on March 25, 1849.

Isaac and Caroline Wilson did well in life before the Civil War messed up their lives and in Isaac’s case, took his life! A farmer, Isaac also seemed a bit of a budding entrepreneur, buying items in Salisbury before hauling goods back to Sutherland, Ashe County to sell to others in the isolated mountains*. (Why in the world did he chose to farm at over 3,000 feet above sea level in a cove with reduced sunshine, cool summers (well, that’s okay) and cold long winters?)* Although he had no slaves, he had some worldly goods, a lot of land in pasture, row crops and timber and was respected in the area. He and Caroline owned some pewter which she buried during the War to hide from Union patrols. *(Which is a good thing she did as foragers stole horses and household items after Isaac’s death.)*

When the War broke out, Isaac signed up with the 37th North Carolina Regiment, Confederate and served as a lieutenant for several months. For some reason, his passion slackened, and he resigned from active service, returned to his family and led the local Home Guard in Ashe County. *(Of course, he did have seven children and a wife to support and Caroline may have told him to get himself home and help her with the kids, cattle, chores, etc.!)*

This decision may have added several years to his life, as the 37th had a storied and dangerous history, fighting in a multitude of battles and finally surrendering *(what was left of them)* with Robert E. Lee at Appomattox.

The mountain back county of both Tennessee and North Carolina bitterly divided in loyalties during the Civil War. Law and order broke down, and the whole area became very uncivil *(which is a pleasant way of saying life became pretty violent and people started murdering each other with regularity).*

The Wilson’s next cove neighbors were named Potters, and they were Union in sentiment. There was also some bad blood over an earlier marriage between the families. *(Given the sore feelings, one can’t imagine the families getting together for bridge and pot luck on Friday nights, but then card-playing was sinful so they wouldn’t have had them over anyway.)*

When one of their Potter kin was killed during an attempt at Confederate conscription *(Yes, the Confederate government initiated a draft in 1862 after initial enthusiasm for repelling the savage Yankee invaders calmed a bit, inflation soared, men started dying and generally speaking a lot of folks started getting stressed and having second thoughts about the whole thing)*, the Potters and some other relations sought revenge. Unfortunately for my family, they zeroed in on the wrong Isaac Wilson, my second great grandfather, and not his cousin, another Isaac Wilson. *(I am not sure how bright these people were as Isaac #2 was known as Big Isaac; maybe their eyesight was inhibited hiding in the woods.)*

On a late spring day June 16, 1864, in what is now Oscar Wilson Cove *(or holler as I was reminded by cousin Peggy Sue Huber recently, a native of Ashe County)*, several Potters and others ‘bushwhacked’ Isaac as he plowed corn in his field. My great grandmother, **Frances** *(note the name Frances*) **Wilson Osborne**, age 13, was walking behind him chopping weeds. Shots rang out from ambush, struck him in the back and Isaac fell. He lingered a few hours and died, another victim of that brutal time.

Our kinfolk and friends sought out the perpetrators and before long, there were six new widows in Ashe County. Caroline Greer Wilson, age 36, was left husbandless with seven children. Her travails and those of her mother, Frankie Brown Greer, and her father-in-law, Jesse Greer, Jr. were recorded by her youngest son, my great grand uncle The Rev. **William A. Wilson,** around 1940.

Will Wilson’s memoirs were saved by his family, and in2007, The Center for Appalachian studies at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina *(a town named after one of our ancestors, ahem)* published them in an 180 page book entitled **Neighbor to Neighbor**. Edited by Sandra L. Ballard and Leila E. Weinstein, most of the paper back is a memoir by my Grand Uncle Will (1861 - 1951).

Born in Wilson Cove, near Sutherland, Ashe County, North Carolina, William was the last of seven children born to Isaac Wilson and Caroline Greer Wilson. He was the best educated of the children, went to the local school a few months a year and graduated in time from Trinity College (now known as Duke University). Raised a Southern Methodist, he was ordained a pastor in that denomination*. (Caroline Wilson had an eighth child two years after husband Isaac was killed, and I suspect the community thought the 8th wonder of the world had occurred until Tom Sutherland confessed to being the father.)*  
 In 1890, Will, who must have been nostalgic for the Great Awakening, accepted what had to be the incredible and peculiar decision to serve as a missionary to Japan of all places. He spent the next forty years in mainly in the Hiroshima district getting as far away from Sutherland, North Carolina as one possibly could. Every ten years or so, he was granted a paid furlough. In his first decade in Japan, he met and married Mary Amelia McClellan, another Southern Methodist missionary. They were to have four children.

The driving story in Uncle Will’s memoir is, not surprisingly, the 'bush whacking' and murder of Confederate Lt. Isaac Wilson, his father. Isaac is buried in the Wilson Cemetery *(he was the first occupant as a decision had to be made in a hurry where to bury him)* in Oscar Wilson Cove and his son, The Rev. William A. Wilson, the author of the poignant memoir, lies near him, as now do dozens of other descendants.  
  
 **Neighbor to Neighbor**can be ordered from the Appalachian State University book shop. The volume contains family photographs and information on my great grandparents **G.W. Osborne, Jr**. and Frankie Wilson Osborne and many other grand uncles and aunts. (*There is a neat family tree in the book illustrating how all of those reading this are related to all the others reading this.)*  
  
 I think now it is time to stop and list the children of Isaac and Caroline, and begin to reflect on the various branches of Wilsons and other family names that sprouted *(well, at least my branch as I am still learning about the others).*

**Some of our Ancestors**

**The Family of Frances Caroline Wilson Osborne (1851-1940),** one of the eight children (*and my great grandmother*)

***Parents***: Isaac Wilson, 12/16/1822 – 17/6/1864; Caroline Greer Wilson, 12/10/1828 - 1911. Married March 25, 1849 in Ashe County, North Carolina.

**The Brothers and Sisters of Frances Caroline Wilson Osborne, i.e. the Children of Isaac and Caroline Wilson.**

Mrs. **Nancy Emaline Osborne** (*1850 – 1919): Ema married* ***Richard Franklin Osborne*** *(1846 – 1897). Frank’s mother was* ***Sarah Thomas Osborne*** *(1829 – 1903), who according to Johnson County (TN) Photographs on-line was married first to* ***Alvin Osborne****, then to* ***Alexander Osborne****. Sarah was the daughter of* ***William*** *and* ***Mary Sutherland*** *of Ashe Co., NC. Mary Sutherland was the daughter of* ***Alexander Sutherland*** *of Grayson Co., Virginia. Alexander’s son* ***Thomas Houston Sutherland****, born 1785, was the founder of Sutherland, NC. This Tom Sutherland’s son, Tom, would father a baby with Caroline Wilson Greer in 1866 after the death of Isaac Wilson in 1864. There were and are a lot of overlapping relations in the mountains!*

Mrs. **James Harvey Proffitt** *( Polly Jane*) (1852 - January 24, 1937): *Married* ***James Harvey Proffitt*.** *Sometimes Proffitt is spelled with just one ‘t’.*

**John Wilson** (1855 – 1928): *Married* ***Rebecca Wilson*** *(1862 – 1952*).

Mrs. **Martha Evaline Forrester** (1857 – 1904):  *Eva* *married* ***Andrew Johnson Forrester*** *and had five children.* *Family historians* ***Jeannie Bond*** *and* ***Clinton Getzinger*** *report however, that* ***Eva*** *first had five children in the 1870s by her brother-in-law, Frank Franklin Osborne while he was married to her sister, Ema. (This branch of our family was not Mormon but Methodist! The two sisters lived in the same holler. Richard must have moved back and forth from house to house. I am trying to imagine Christmas dinner with two women pregnant by the same man at the same time. Once the sisters had babies by the same man the same year. No wonder brother-in-law Will Wilson moved to Japan!)*

**Robert Boyd Wilson** (*Bob Boyd*) (1860 – 1949): *Married* ***Sara Ellen Wilson*** *(1866 – 1952), sister of Becky Wilson Wilson.*

The Rev. **William Albert Wilson** (1861 – 1951): *Married* ***Mary Amelia* *McClellan****. Youngest son of Caroline and Isaac Wilson, he obtained an education, attended Trinity College (Duke), was ordained a Southern Methodist minister and became a missionary to Japan. One of his ministries in Japan was Hiroshima. He retired in 1931 after 41 years in Asia to his flower garden in Durham, North Carolina. (Oh, to know his anguished thoughts on August 6, 1945.)*

Mrs. **Sara Marilla Wilson Osborn** (1866 – 1882): *Married* ***William Osborne****.* Blessed Marilla was born two years after Isaac Wilson died. Did Mama Caroline’s extra ordinary romantic activity in 1865 *(It was a terrible year for her, and one suspects she needed some masculine comfort)* make it difficult for her to complain about her daughter Eva having five babies out of wedlock with daughter Ema’s husband, and father of 12 children with Ema!?)

*(There is an old joke that if a couple gets divorced in Ashe, County can they still call each other brother and sister? Hmm...this gets a bit too close to my family's history.)*

**The Brothers and Sisters of George Washington Osborne, Jr.**

*Information courtesy of Jeanie Bond, great, great granddaughter of Isaac and Caroline Wilson Greer. Since I am writing this and G.W. is my great grandfather, I thought I would include it. If you are not related by DNA to G.W., you don’t have to read it. If you are a direct relation of G.W., you still do not have to read it if you don’t want to.*

Father: George Osborn (1803 – 1882)

Mother: Mary Osborn

*Siblings*

Alexander C. Osborne (1827 – 1862)

Clemons W. Osborn (1834 – 1902)

Jonathan Osborn (1836 - )

Noah Osborn (1838 - )

Tabitha Osborn (1840 - )

Andrew Osborn (1842 - \_

George W. Osborn (1846 – 1927)

**The Children of George Washington and Frankie Osborne**

**Marion Lee Osborn** (8/31/1874, age 6 days): *Taken from a printed remembrance by Frankie.*

**Toby Miles Osborne** (1/26/1876 - 1951): *Lived in Sumner, Washington beginning in 1920s. His children were Eddie Lawrence, Russell Miller and Pauline Osborne Smith. Pauline married a Bennett Winston Smith. They had a son ‘Bennie” and a daughter, Melinda. Toby’s first wife,* ***Alta Holtsclaw****, died 8/18/1933. Toby remarried*. *Unfortunately his life ended tragically, having been incarcerated in five prisons for mail fraud and counterfeit checks. He died penniless in 1951 in Seattle, WA according to his great grand daughter, Sara Porter who kindly shared this sad information.*

**Leroy Milburn Osborne** (2/17/1879 – 1948) *Roy lived at 1016 16th Street, Cleveland TN in 1936. His wife named* ***Lena Holtsclaw*** *(9/17/1879), and he had children: Ralph Summers Osborne, Albert Leslie Osborne, Robert Lafayette Osborne and Lucille Osborne. He listed his occupation in 1918 as a farmer when he signed up for the draft.*

**Bishop L. Osborne** (12/13/1881 – 6/1965): *Wrote poetry and articles for the Bristol, Tennessee paper. Employed at King’s Department Store as an accountant. King’s Department Store, a major establishment in Bristol and Johnson City, was owned, well, by the King family. Briefly in the 1930s Frazier King, a scion of the family, was married to my Aunt Frances Louise Stansbery Sherwood. Bishop’s wife’s name was* ***Cora E. Broyles Osborne****. Due to a cleft foot, she always wore long dresses. Bishop’s poetry was occasionally published. I have in my procession a collection of his poems given to me by my mother, which reflect his patriotic and religious beliefs. Son’s name was Vivian Randall Osborne*. *The local newspaper always wrote his name as 'Bish'.*

**Eddie C. Osborn** (Died 8/29/1886, age 1 year, 4 m., 4 d.): *Taken from a printed remembrance: “Eddie Carlock Osborne – Born April 25 1885”. He is buried at Henson Methodist Church Cemetery, Cove Creek, North Carolina.*

**Bascom Wilson Osborne** (7/ 5/1887 – 9/1970): *Lived in Baltimore and after death of first wife,* ***Dora Catherine Kruger*** *(age 33, buried Woodlawn Cemetery, Baltimore, MD), relocated to Louisville, KY and then to Owensboro, KY and worked for Brodie Motor Company, a Dodge dealership. His second wife’s name was Ada. They lived in 1936 at 730 Walnut St, Owensboro, KY. Bascom had a breakdown after his wife died and shipped his children off to a sister to be raised by her.*

**William (Bill) Vestal Osborne** (7/22/1892 – 11/20/1968): *Lived at 1634 7th Avenue, Los Angeles California in 1938. He was a used car manager of a Ford dealership, Pico Motors in Los Angeles. Wife (married 1920) was Katherine Rader. One daughter, Margaret Shields, was their only child. “Willy”, according to my mother, was Frankie’s favorite child*.

**Pearl Osborne Wright** (3/1/1890 – 8/20/1980): *She was born in Mast, North Carolina and died in Damascus, Virginia. Husband Robert David Wright, married 12/20/1911.*

*With no children of their own, beginning in 1922, they raised the three children of Bascom Osborne and his deceased wife Catherine Kruger Osborne (1889 – 1922) of Baltimore, MD. Evidently Bascom had some type of breakdown after the sudden death of his wife and did not see fit (or was unfit) to raise his children. The three children are recorded below:*

**Bascom Kruger Osborne**: *Bascom K. would join the U.S. Navy in 1927 at age 17 and serve on the USS Marblehead in 1930s. In 1938, he was stationed in Manila, the Philippines billeted to the USS Black Hawk as a Chief Electrician’s Mate. One undated Christmas card has Bascom K. (that is the way he signs himself) on the USS Long. He was born 1910 and died 1977, a retired Naval officer, who did quite well for himself in the Navy.*

**Doris Ethel Osborne Akers**: *Husband Elmer was nick named Flea. Their daughter (born 1940) is Phyllis Akers Mink, a contributor to this document.*

**Gladys Pearl Osborne Adema**: *In the late 1930s she lived in Buffalo, NY at 39 W. Balcom St. Her husband’s name was Howard, and the 15th month old baby named Peggy (letter dated June 20 1938) now lives in Florida*. *Another son was named Robert Adema, and his wife’s name Gayle, and they have become good friends.*

**Mayme Tarrence Osborne Stansbery** (1/16/1893 – 12/3/1943): She married Charles S. Stansbery on April 29, 1914. She is this writer’s grandmother. In addition to having my mother, Geraldine Stansbery, they had a son, Charles, and another daughter, Frances Louise Stansbery. *(I had to get the name Frances in one more time before I stop!)*

***The Descendants of James Grear (Greer)***   
*Sources are the Notebook of the Jesse Greer Family, Genealogy Collection, Appalachian State University and the Greer Genealogical Website at rootsweb.com****.***  
  
**Scottish Generation:**Roger Grierson, the 8th Lord of Lag, married Helena Douglas (b before 1560 - d 1578);   Roger was born ca 1520 and died August 1593).  Roger and Helena were my 11th GGP.  
  
**Scottish Generation:** My generation's 10th GGP were Sir William Grierson, 9th Lord of Lag, and Nicola Maxwell (b ca 1578). Sir William was born between 1567 and 1575 and died January 21, 1629. Nicola was the daughter of William Maxwell, Lord Herries, my 11th GGF.  Sir William and Nicola married May 9, 1593. This couple are 9th great grandparents of Prime Minister Winston Churchill.  
  
 **Last Scottish Generation:**Sir James Grier was born 1604 and died 1666 in Dumfries, Scotland.  His wife was Mary Browne, b. ca 1604 at Glencairn, Dumfries shire, Scotland.  This couple are my 9th GGP.  They married ca 1626.  John ( b ca 1570 at Glencairne, Dumfries) and Sarah Hope Browne (b ca 1570), the parents of Mary Browne are my 10th GGP.   
  
**First American Generation:**My generation's 8th great grandfather**,**James Grear (1627 - 1688 ca) of Dumfries, Scotland was transported on November 2, 1675 by Samuel Gibbons to Maryland; statement signed by the Roman Catholic proprietor, Governor Charles Calvert, grandson of the founder, Lord Baltimore.  James Grear, Jr. marries circa 1680 or 1688 Ann Taylor (1662 - 1716), daughter of Arthur Taylor and Margaret Hill Taylor.  James dies perhaps 1688. Ann dies May 13, 1716. Arthur Taylor's father is named John Taylor.  Ann Taylor is my generation's 8th GGM.  
  
**Second Generation**: John Greer, Sr. born ca. 1688 along Gunpowder River, Maryland.  He marries Sarah Day, daughter of Nicholas and Sarah Day at St. John's Anglican Parish March 4, 1704 at Joppa.  John Sr. dies 1752 in Onslow Country, North Carolina. Sarah, John's wife, probably died before 1747.  They are my generation's 7th GGP. Sarah is the daughter of Nicholas Day and Sarah Lowe, my 8th GGP.  John Sr. would marry a second time between 1745 - 1750 to Chloe Jones.   
  
**Third Generation**: John Greer, Jr. born ca 1714 on the Gunpowder River. His first wife was Sarah Ann Elliott, and they are the parents of Benjamin Greer.   They married in 1736 at St. John's Parish, Joppa, Maryland.  His 2nd wife was Nancy Anne Lowe Walker, b. 1714.  In 1756, John Jr. moved to North Carolina.  He died May 1782 in Wilkes Country, North Carolina. John Greer Jr. and Sarah Ann Elliott are my generation's 6th GGP.  
  
**Fourth Generation**:  Benjamin Greer born February 9, 1746 in Albemarle County (Charlottesville area), Virginia.  Benjamin married Nancy Wilcoxson in 1767.  Nancy died October 31, 1790.  Benjamin died October 23, 1816 at Green River, Kentucky.  Benjamin and Nancy are my 5th GGP.  
  
**Fifth Generation**: Jesse Greer Sr. born November 14, 1778 in Wilkes County, North Carolina and died September 20, 1869.  He married 13 year old Mary Polly Morris on January 17, 1800.  She died in Ashe County, NC February 29, 1880.  Mary's parents were Henry and Mary Morris.  This prolific couple who produced 17 children, are my 4th GGP.  Henry and Mary Morris are my 5th GGP.  
  
**Sixth Generatio**n: Jesse Greer Jr. born December 16, 1806 in Ashe County, North Carolina.  His future wife, Francis (Frankie) Brown born December 16, 1810 at Ashe County.  They married 1826.  Jesse Greer, Jr. and Francis Brown Greer are my generation's 3rd GGP.  
  
**Seventh Generation**: Caroline Nancy Greer born December 10, 1828.  Her future husband, Isaac Wilson, born December 16, 1822.  She and Isaac marry March 25, 1849.  Isaac is killed June 1864; Caroline survives until 1911.  Isaac and Caroline are my generation's 2nd GGP.  
  
**Eight Generation**:  My generation's great grandmother born in 1851, Frances Wilson who will marry G.W. Osborne in 1867.  He dies in 1928 and Frankie lives until 1940.  G.W. and Frankie are my Great Grandparents.

***The Descendants of John Taylor***  
*Sources include LDS ancestral File and the Greer Genealogical Website at roots web.com.*  
  
  
**First American Generation:**John Taylor (1629 - 1675) married a woman named Margaret (b 1629 in England), unknown last name.  John and Margaret are my generation's 10th GGF. John was born in England and died in Baltimore Co., Maryland.  
 **Second Generation:**Arthur Taylor (? - 1687) married Margaret Hill (1629 ca - 1678), daughter of Roger Hill (b 1610) in 1658 in Baltimore Co., Maryland.  Born in England,  Margaret died at Baltimore Co., Maryland.  Arthur and Margaret Hill Taylor are my 9th GGP.  
  
**Third Generation:**Ann Taylor was born 1662 in Maryland, married James Greer ca 1682 and died May 13, 1716.  She married three times, and is my 8th  GGM.  After my 8th GGF died she married Lawrence Richardson and Oliver Harriott.

***The Descendants of Nicholas Day***

*Sources include LDS ancestral File and the Greer Genealogical Website at roots web.com.*

**Last Welsh Generation: ??**  
  
**First American Generation:** Nicholas Day born in Wales, died 1704 in Baltimore Co., Maryland.  His wife was Sarah Lowe. They are my 8th GGP.

**Second Generation:** Sarah Day (1686 ca - ca 1747) was born Baltimore Co., Maryland, and married John Greer, Jr. on March 4, 1704 at the original St. John's Parish in what is now the Edgeworth Officer's Club at Aberdeen Proving Ground.  Sarah and John Greer, Sr. are my 7th GGP.

*The opinions expressed in this document are mine alone and maybe even a few of the errors. I am grateful to a number of relatives known and unknown who have made these Wilson-Greer histories possible. Annie Heaton, a Greer descendant; Shirley Sorrell, a Wilson descendant; Clinton Getzinger and Connie Burns, Forrester descendants; Bob Adema, a Wilson and Osborne descendant; my mother, Geraldine Stansbery, and my late great grandmother, Frances Wilson Osborne, who left a fabulous diary that is now in the Archives of the Museum of Appalachia in Boone, North Carolina.*

*I know no doubt have left many out and I apologize. But since this is an opinionated piece, those left out may just be grateful! Glenn N. Holliman*