

Re: Ann Willson and Thomas Blount

Thomas Blount gave a deposition in a court case tried in the October-November 1697 term of the General Court, regarding events of November or December 1696. In the deposition he stated that his age was "betwixt 41 and 42 years". This indicates Thomas Blount was born about 1655. (North Carolina Higher-Court Records, 1697-1701, p. 124.)

Ann Willson's birth date is unknown. However, the ages of her children and grandchildren provide clues to her age. Her daughter Sarah married in 1687 and bore children from 1688 through 1707, while Ann's son Isaac became a father for the first time in 1690. (Hinshaw, Encyclopedia, I:26, 36, 94; North Carolina Wills, 1663-1789.) Allowing even the minimum age of thirteen for motherhood would place Sarah's birth about 1674 and Ann's about 1661; it is likely both mother and daughter were of greater age when they married and bore children. We cannot reasonably place Ann Willson's birth date any later than 1661.

Thomas Blount was born about 1655. Ann Willson was born prior to 1661. Obviously, Ann was not Thomas' daughter. Indeed, she may actually have been older than he.

Some researchers, straining to connect the Blounts and Willsons, have assumed that Isaac Willson's first wife Ann was Thomas Blount's daughter. This cannot be, either, for Thomas Blount's second will (3 September 1701) names his daughter Ann Wilson. Isaac Willson married his second wife on 31 March 1701. Obviously, Isaac's first wife had been dead some time when Thomas' will was written; the will clearly indicates Thomas' daughter Ann Wilson was still living. (North Carolina Wills, 1663-1789; Perquimans Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1659-1739.)

We may conclude without hesitation that the Ann Wilson called daughter in the will of Thomas Blount was not the wife of Robert or Isaac Willson.

Chowan County deeds and a petition to the Council show a William Willson and wife Ann were active in that county in the 1710s. (Chowan Deeds, B(1):202, 203, 474; Council Journal.) Although we do not know with certainty that this Ann Willson was Thomas Blount's daughter, this is likely to be so.

Thomas Blount's will, of which I have a copy, says he is of Kendricks' Creek, Abbermarle Co. NC. Kendricks' Creek is in the Chowan County division of the original Albermarle. Chowan County does not abut Virginia, and is at quite a distance from Surrey C. VA where our Ann Wilson spent the last year of her life, as indicated by her will. I have no idea why Ann Wilson deeded her property in NC (Oct 1701) to son Isaac and son-in-law John Belman and moved to Lawns Creek Parish, Surrey Co. VA. where she left a will signed in July 1702. She leaves to grandchildren who are named for Robert and herself; Robert & Ann Belman and Robert & Ann Wilson, and the "poor Friends belonging to the Meeting in Surry County."

1983
From Raymond P. Winstanley, Jr.
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