

MOSES STANLEY

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There were at least nine men named Moses Stanley who lived in Virginia and North Carolina during the late seventeenth through the early nineteenth centuries. Their surname is spelled variously from time to time and place to place as Stanly, Stanley and Standley. The form found in a document is relatively unimportant when tracing the activities of one person or in distinguishing one person from another for the clerk or census enumerator may have spelled phonetically. Anyone copying a name later might have misread the penmanship of an earlier scribe.

One Moses Stanley from Caroline Co. Virginia served in the Revolutionary War and both he and his wife Mary Mills received pension (W-3886) from the federal government. They had a son Moses Stanley who died without children. He is not the Moses Stanley of this family history.

A Moses Stanley was born in VA in the year 1656, son of Thomas Stanley. He's a century too early.

Another Moses Stanley was born in Henry Co. VA, in 1755, son of Moses Stanley and Elizabeth Bird (LDS 8610681-10), a possible ancestor.

Yet another Moses Stanley was born in Caroline Co. VA in the year 1758. He is unlikely because he would be only 10 or 11 in 1769 when our Moses paid a poll tax in North Carolina.

July 6, 1761 Ann Stanley applied with Joseph Jones in Spotsylvania Co VA for a bond to administer to the estate of her father Moses Stanley. (£100 Adm Bonds, Will Bk B) No relationship can be deduced because of insufficient data.

Nov 15, 1781 ushered in another Moses Stanley born in Hanover Co VA to Thomas Stanley and Unity (Crew?) of the Quaker Cedar Creek Meeting House. His arrival is too late.

Dec 19, 1798 one Moses Stanley witnessed the marriage of Jonathan Stanley to Mary Crew at the Cedar Creek Meeting House, Hanover VA. (Hinshaw, Quaker.) Quite possibly our relative.

Another Moses Stanley was born in Orange Co. VA in the year 1752, daughter of William and Judith Standley. (LDS fiche 8610681-4). This date is compatible with most other data. In William Stanley's will dated August 17, 1784, wife Judy and son Richard are named executors. The children listed in the will are in order: Mary Stanley, Jane Mullins, John Stanley, William Stanley, Moses Stanley, Richard Stanley, Judy Buck, Hannar Robert Stanley, James Stanley, Jesses Stanley and Ann Atkins. Grandson William Stanley is mentioned with no reference to his parent's name. (Henry Co VA 1784 Will Bk 1, reel 15, pp.91,92 & 101.)

There is no proof just some circumstantial evidence that this Moses may be the subject of this family history. Our Moses also had children named Jesse, Moses and William.

As the lands became less fertile in Virginia the settlers began migrating southward into the Carolinas, and later into Georgia. With the removal of the last Indian nations westward trails developed. The travels of Moses' descendents follow these major migration routes, usually on the crest of the wave of settlers searching for opportunities not available in the state or county of their residence.

There were several Heads of Families in the first U. S. Census listed in New Bern District North Carolina. These three New Bern area counties are in close proximity to Wayne. The first names of these Stanleys are; Craven Co: James, Ephraim and Wright. Dobbs Co: Isaac, Jonathan and William. Jones Co: James, Martin, Ann, Benjamin and William. And in Wayne Co only the Moses Stanley. The relationships, if any, between and among these pioneers is as yet undetermined.

1. MOSES STANLEY,
with no known middle name, was born before 1753, possibly in North Carolina, Virginia or

even in England. This birth date is an estimate determined by evaluating data from several sources: the ages reported in the first three censuses, poll tax list for Dobbs Co. 1769 and the minimum age for obtaining land grants from the Crown which Moses received in 1775. As of 1749 there was levied a poll tax of tithables required of all males 16 and older and all blacks or persons of mixed blood 12 and older.

However, it is certain, that he died in Wayne County North Carolina in 1812. His original will written in 1811 and a photocopy are recorded in the North Carolina Archives Raleigh, Bk RD2, 202-179 for Wayne Co, NC. In this document the surviving children are listed but there is no mention of his wife. As divorce was uncommon then, it is more likely that his wife died before he did. She was probably the female listed on the 1810 census and within the same age group of 26 to 45 as Moses, she most likely died between after the census of 1810 and before Moses in 1812.

Moses Stanley of New Bern Dist, NC, Wayne Co., in the 1790 Census lists (3) males 16 & up, (4) males under 16, (5) females & 12 slaves. (3-4-5-0-12), which translates into a wife, six sons and four daughters.

In the 1800 Federal census (02101-01101-00), Head of Family Moses Stanley reported both one man and one woman 45 years or older. It is likely that their children at home were two males 10-16, one male 16-26, one female 10-16, and one female 16-26. While in 1810 his enumeration gives only two in the household, both 26-45 years of age, and one slave, it seems reasonable to assume that the woman is his wife and all the children have left home.

While the number of slaves he owned was tabulated in 1790 and again in the 1810 census, there were zero recorded for 1800, but this is probably an oversight. Twelve slaves were willed to his children in 1812. As a farmer credited with owning 1137 acres and 12 slaves on the 1786 Wayne Co. tax list he needed many hands to work the land. The four main crops grown in the area, rice, indigo, tobacco and cotton were all labor intensive. Moses Standley is named in a recorded transaction as purchasing "from Daniel Atkinson for eighty pounds specie (about \$320. U.S.) one Negro Garl named Iizi on December 19, 1787." (Wayne Co, N.C., Goldsboro, Register of Deeds, Bk. 4, p. 143.)

The area presently known as Wayne County, North Carolina has been known by several different names. In 1712 the land was Craven Precinct in the Colony of North Carolina, which in 1750 became Johnson County. During the Revolutionary War the land was divided and renamed (1779) Duplin & Dobbs Counties as part of the State of North Carolina while in 1791 the geographical area we now call Wayne County acquired its present name.

Little is known of Moses Stanley's marriage(s). It has been suggested that he was married to a Dorcas Croom. In support of this, it may be noted that several descendents have Croom as a middle name. It was not an uncommon practice at the time to use the grandmother's or maiden or even married name as a child's middle name.

There were several Croom families notably descendents of Daniel Croom, an Irishman who came to North Carolina in 1717 from New Kent County, VA., and his son Jesse who left Wight Co VA and came to Wayne Co. NC in 1754. Further clouds appear when son of Thomas Uzzell Jr., Elisha Uzzell (1736-1813), married Dorcas Stanley whose father was said to be Major Stanley. Thomas Uzzell with wife Sarah lived on a farm in NC next to the Elisha and Dorcas' farm. Both Elisha and Dorcas are buried in the Elisha Uzzell Cemetery on Walnut Creek in Walnut Creek Village, Wayne Co, NC. Major as a first name has been found in the Croom family, too. No records have been found to support these Croom or Uzzell marriages. (Source: Wayne Co History).

Son Major Henry Stanley was appointed executor of the Moses Stanley estate in 1813 (Wayne Co Feb Film R2-202-260) Whether he was the oldest son or not is not clear. Although officially

eliminated by law in the 1780's, primogeniture was still commonly used. Often the first son was not mentioned in the will as he inherited everything. Even the eldest daughter was sometimes not mentioned because at her marriage her father often gave or sold land to the newlyweds at a nominal rate. But Moses seems to have distributed his property in a more modern fashion. It seems reasonable to assume that within the grouping by gender both the sons and daughters are listed in their birth order eldest first; and this order is most likely not the order of birth of all their children. There is no known document providing birth order of the children; the will, written October 12, 1811, recorded in 1812 and probated in 1813 is the only known source listing surviving children. The seven males and five females listed in the 1790 census with Moses as head of family could include six sons and four daughters. The other two males were of unknown relationship and might have died, moved away, been disinherited, or were just not related but living with the family when the census was written.

It is certain, however, that the devisees in Moses Stanley's will are four sons and five daughters. Their names and inheritances are listed below.

2. Jesse - land in Lenoir Co and 3 slaves
3. Moses (Jr.) - land in Duplin Co and 1 slave
4. William - land in Duplin Co and 1 slave
5. Major - land in Duplin Co and 1 slave
6. Betsey - 2 slaves, furnishings and furniture. m. _____ Pipkin, son Jesse.
7. Sally - 1 slave, bed and furniture. married Joseph West, son of John West
8. Charity - 1 slave, bed and furniture. m. James West, son of John West
9. Dorcas - 1 slave, bed and furniture. married _____ Herring.
10. Polly (Polly?) - 1 slave, bed and furniture. married _____ Bowden.

First among his land acquisitions, Moses received a patent on March 4, 1775 150 acres in Dobbs Co on N side of Neuse R and E side of Bogue Marsh from the Crown (King George III) by Josiah Martin, Royal Governor of the Colony of North Carolina. (PATENT BK25 p.39 from the Crown (King George III) to Moses Stanley by Josiah Martin, Royal Governor of the Colony.) Most of the land he amassed is described as North of the Neuse River. The city of Newbern, a seaport and largest market was downstream about 75 miles. Scows and barges of shallow draft used the Neuse River as the waterway to transport heavy loads to and from the port city of New Berne. It is of no use today for commerce. While the Stanley properties were on the North shore of the Neuse, across from these lands on the south side today is a modern state park called The Cliffs of the Neuse.

From the new State of North Carolina, it is recorded that he purchased 32 ac in 1785. The next year his taxable land was determined to be 1137 acres. In 1792 alone purchases are recorded for tracts of 150, 22, 24 and 45 acres, a total of 241 additional acres. Robert Ivey and Bryan Whitfield's property lines are mentioned in the deeds as adjoining Moses Stanley's. On January 19, 1789, Robert Ivey sold 728 acres to John Ivey. An unknown portion of that tract was originally from a Moses Stanley patent dated Nov. 10, 1784. The record of this acquisition has not been found.

Just how much land he owned may never be known for an clerk of the area now named Wayne County, who was trying to transport the official documents to a safe hiding place, was apprehended by a British patrol. Rejecting the legality of the State of North Carolina and declaring its documents illegal, the British troops promptly set fire to and destroyed all those early property, census, tax and marriage records. Some transactions which were recorded in counties other than Wayne might have survived.

Not one account of military service, application for a pension, or for bounty land from the U.S. Government has been found for Moses. It has been estimated that about 25% of the inhabitants of North Carolina were sympathetic to the Crown at the beginning of the