

The following records relative to Daniel and Joel Croom, the tithables of King William Parish, the will of Daniel Croom, and other early records were among the Croom Records of Miss Junie Whitfield, Kinston, N. C. (now deceased) and her sister, Miss Hattie Lou Whitfield, of Kinston, N. C. informs the writer that Miss Junie obtained them through her cousin, James B. Whitfield, of Florida. He most likely obtained them either through Col. W. B. Rodman, of Norfolk, Va. or John B. McCurry of Tulsa, Oklahoma, both of whom did research on the Croom Family.

DANIEL CROOM - PROGENITOR OF THE CROOMS OF NORTH CAROLINA

With the meager information available at this late date, now nearly two hundred years after his death, it is impossible to write both accurately and interestingly of Daniel Croom of New Kent, Henrico and Goochland Counties, Virginia.

The records of Henrico County show that on February 1, 1717, Michael Cantipe, in consideration of five schillings current money; for the term of one year, leased to Daniel Croom 52 acres of land in Henrico County on the south bank of the James River. This lease recited that it was for the purpose and "to the intent that by virtue hereof and of the statute for transferring uses into possession, the said Daniel Croom may be in actual possession of the said land and premises, and be enabled to take and accept of a grant and release of the reversion and inheritances of the said land and premises."*

On February 3, 1717, by deed of release,** Michael Cantipe completed the sale and transfer to Daniel Croome. In the release, the name is spelled with the final "e". Michael Cantipe was one of the French Huguenots that came to Virginia in 1700.

The tract of land thus conveyed was a part of the first 5000 acres granted by the state of Virginia to the French Huguenots in order to aid them as refugees fleeing from the tyranny of Louis XIV of France. Michael Cantipe was in all probability one of the French Huguenots, beneficiaries of the legacy of 2000 pounds left by Sir John Geventry in 1686 for the benefit of the French Huguenots in England; his wife Elizabeth joined in the execution and acknowledgement of the release for the purpose of releasing her dower rights. This conveyance, with subsequently mentioned documents, shows that in or about 1717, Daniel Croome moved from New Kent County to Henrico County, where for eight years, 1717-1725, he made his home among the French Huguenots.

It is reasonably certain that Daniel Croome and Joel Croome, both of New Kent County, were akin; what the relationship was cannot now, in all probability, be ascertained; most probably father and son.

* Will and Deed Book Henrico County 1714-1718, p. 226.
** Henrico County Wills and Deed Book, 1714-1718, p. 227.
This completing the seal and transfer of this 52 acres of land on the south bank of the James River at the deserted village of the Monacan Indians.

Here is part of a deed copied by Mrs. Lois Croom Cooke, 4/9/41 while she was living in Richmond, Va. She is the wife of Dr. H. M. Cooke, now living in Boone, N. C.:
Land Office, State Capitol, Richmond Va. No. 11-107-
GEORGE et al, know ye that for divers good causes and considerations but more especially for and in consideration of the sum of 40 shillings of good and lawful money for our use paid to our Revenues in this our Colony and Dominion of Va. We have given granted and confirmed and by these presents for us our heirs and successors do grant and confirm unto Daniel Croom, one certain tract or parcel of land containing 400 acres, lying and being on the south side James River in the county of Henrico and on a branch running into Jones Creek from the south---" Witness our trusty and well beloved Alexander Spotswood our Lt. Gov, at Williamsburgh under the seal of our colony the 22nd day of June, 1722 in the 8th year of our Reign. - A Spotswood.

8

For those interested, we attach a copy of Daniel Croom's will, and the inventory of his estate. He was evidently a man of some means, and no doubt took an honorable part in the affairs of that day. He left surviving him six children, Abell, the eldest, Major and Dorothy, both under age at the time of his death, who were to live with Susannah, his wife, until they arrived of age; Jesse, who was to have the plantation after his mother's death, and Sara and Judith, his youngest daughters, were to have his movables, should Susannah, his wife, die or remarry.

Abell, the eldest son, sold his patrimony in 1737 and moved to near New Bern, North Carolina in 1741.

Major, the next eldest son, moved to North Carolina in 1744, settling at Falling Creek, now Lenoir County.

Jesse, the youngest son, settled in North Carolina in or before 1757, as he sold his patrimony in that year, probably the time of the death of his mother, Susannah.

In Abidience to an order of Goochland County Court Feb. 24th, 1735-36, we the Subscribers being first sworn before Mr. John Netherland one of his Magty, Justice of the peace for the Said County hath appraised the Estate of Daniel Croom, deceased as was brought before us by his Executors as followeth:

To One Negro Man	25 . 0 . 0
To One Negro Woman	25 . 0 . 0
To 1 good bed quilt blanket pr. sheets bedstead & cord hide one blanket	2 . 10 . 0
To one old bed & Sheet bedstead and cord	1 . 0 . 0
To one bedm rug, pr. sheets bedstead	2 . 10 . 0
To one table eight old chairs	2 . 8 . 0
To parsell of poor hogs at	. . 15 . 0
To four horses and mares at	7 . 0 . 0
To six cows and calves, six young cattle, two sheep at	6 . 10 . 0
To parsell of old puter at	. . 10 . 0
To twelve plaits at	. . 12 . 0
To 1 small looking glass at	. . 5 . 0
To parsell of old books at	1 . 0 . 0
To box and heaters very old at	. . 2 . 6
To parsell of old lumber at	1 . 3 . 0
To 2 candle sticks, candle box 2 salt sellors	. . 2 . 6
To one kittle 2 old iron potts 2 pot racks one pare of dog iron pare of stilleards 1 pan pr. tongs	1 . 7 . 6
To one iron skillet table cloth & 5 old naps	. . 7 . 6
To one hatchet one gun	. . 15 . 0
To 7 old hoes & axes 1 cart & wheels	. . 17 . 0
To one negro boy to Smith Tools	36 . 0 . 0
To one lume and parcel of old lumber	5 . 0 . 0
To the praisors allowance 90 lb. tobacco	118 . 15 . 0

Thos. Edwards, John Lane, Thomas Christian.

This is what was not appraised to one old turner bench, to one old hand saw one cross cut saw to 5 old wedges to old cider mill.

Return by Susannah Croom, Exutra.

March 6th, 1735-36

At a court held for Goochland County March 16th, 1735
This inventory was ordered to be recorded.

Test:

H. Wood Cl, Cm.

Recorded in Deed Book M 2 Page 189
Goochland County Clerk's Office

Sometime between April 21, 1728, and November 3, 1734, he married Susanna-⁹
family name not ascertainable - and probably had born to him three children.*****

We have been unable to find anything which would definitely determine the date
of birth of Daniel Croome.

For the speculatively minded, we submit the following:

His eldest son was Abell, who in 1734, the date of his father's will, was of age,
living on one of his father's plantations, having a home of his own.

Abell's oldest child was Elizabeth who married Loverick Young, and had a child
born to them in 1745.*****

***** See Will, Infra.

*****Family Bible of Loverick Young, in possession of Mrs. Julia Wood Uzzell, of
Goldsboro, N.C., a descendent of Loverick Young and his wife, Elizabeth
Croom.

Assuming Elizabeth to have been 20 years of age when her first child was born,
she was born about 1725; assuming further her father Abell to have been 21 years of
age when Elizabeth was born, this would put his birth about 1704, and assuming
Daniel to have been 21 years of age when Abell was born, would place Daniel's birth
about or prior to 1683.

His will (q.v.infra) is dated November 3, 1734. The inventory of his estate
(q.v.infra) was ordered appraised February 24, 1735, 36, the will being proven May
20, 1735.

His widow, Susanna, married Charles Holmes sometime prior to July 1737, as the
records of Goochland County, Virginia show that at the court of Goochland County,
held July 1737, Charles Holmes and Susanna, his wife, executrix of the last will
and testament of Daniel Croom, were defendants in an action for debt.*

He was a "Smith" by trade; he so styles himself in a bond given to John Nether-
land on October 22, 1734, conditioned to make title to a tract of land he had con-
tracted to sell,** and the inventory of his estate contains the item "To one Negro
boy Smith tools 36 pounds."

As to his religion, he was in all probability a member of the "Society of Friends"
(Quakers)

His near neighbors and those from whom he bought, and to whom he sold lands just
before his death; one of the witnesses to his will and witnesses to his deeds and
contracts were that religious belief.

This may account for the fact that neither his marriage nor the date of the birth
of his children are to be found among any of the Vestry or other church records
which have been examined at our request.

The members of the "Society of Friends" refused to have their marriages, deaths
or births of their children recorded in the records of the established "Church of
England" though the law so required.

The "Friends Records of Henrico County, Va., 1699-1757, White Oak Swamp Meeting
House" do not show the names of any Crooms as a member of the Society.

* Page 198, County Court Order Book No. 4, Goochland County.

** Deed Book 2, page 35, Goochland County.

The "Magazine of History and Biography" (published at Richmond, Va.) has published serially, the

"Vestry Book of King William Parish, 1707-1750." (Translated from the French and annotated by Prof. R.W. Fife, Wesleyan University, with an introduction of Col. R.L. Maury, Richmond, Va.)

"From the original, the property of Mrs. Lella Walker, Ft. Estel, Ky."

From this publication, we quote from the introduction:

"In 1700 came the largest party yet, bound for Manakin Town, under the special auspices of King William and the special favor of Virginia. To secure such coveted colonists, laws had been made from time to time, granting unusual privileges to all that came. They were admitted to full citizenship immediately upon arrival, with right to worship God as they would, under ministers of their own selection, and later still further to attract, and in response to the King's regard, that they should be welcomed and assisted by the colony, it donated for their settlement a tract of 10,000 acres, the best on James River, twenty miles above Richmond, being the deserted village of the Monacan Indians, exempted from taxation and constituted their settlement King William Parish; to be under their exclusive control, with the right to select and have two pastors, whom they were to support.

The first settlement of them sailed from the Thames in 1700, aboard the Mary Ann, with their pastor Claude Phillip de Richborg, led by Marquis de la Muce; the second, aboard the Peter and Anthony, arrived soon after, with the beloved Birgam de Joux of Lyons, ordained by the Bishop of London to be their pastor, and who was the real founder and leader of the whole settlement; the third soon followed, and the fourth, aboard the Nassau, with Lewis la Dance, pastor. Each brought about two hundred. Passenger lists of all save the third and partial list of the inhabitants of Manakin Town, at sundry dates, have been published by the Virginia Historical Society. Most of these, and doubtless others, who had previously come to Virginia, for there were several thousand here now, made their homes first upon their grant; fields were cleared, 133 acres allotted to each, the village laid out, and buildings commenced, the church, the parsonage, the school house first. "(Vol. 11, p.218)

From the Vestry Book:

"1719 List of Tithables of King William Parish for the present year, 1719, taxed at one and one half bushels of wheat.

	Tithables	Bushels of Wheat
Daniel Croome)		
Tho:Nelle)		
Jack Indian)	4	6
Tho:Boadill)		

1720 at 2 bushels of wheat:

"List of tithables, King William Parish, for the present year 1720, taxed at two bushels of wheat:

Daniel Croome)		
Tho; Noell)	3	6
Jack Indian)		

(Vol. 12, p.245,246)

"1723 List of Tithables of King William Parish for the year 1723.

Thomas Noel	1	
Tho, Greffit		
Jack Indian	2	

(Vol. 12, p.251)

THE CROOM FAMILY
PART I
as
assembled by
DORIS C. OUTLAW

Harwood Heraldic Artist, Richmond, Va. 516 W. Grace St., Aug. 30th, 1934.
Mrs. Eva Larkins:

Dear Mrs. Larkins: I am enclosing a list of the Irish Monarchs on the ancient pedigree of the Croom- (Cromthan, Crumthan, Crimthan, (as it is variously spelled) -- Family.

The first Crooms-or Crooms- were descendants of King Haremon, Monarch of Ireland, who began to reign about 1700 B. C.
He was succeeded by

3 sons:

3)	Mumine	79	Eachaidh Altleathan
4)	Luighne	80	Fergus Fortambail
5)	Laighsen	81	Alemas Furmeach Teamlock
10	Iriah Faidh,	82	Conall Collaimrach
11	Eithrial	84	Eanna Aigneach
13	Tighearnmas	85	Cromthan (Crumthan)
18	Fiacha Lamhraein		Cosgnach.
20	Aongu (AEneas) Oll- mucach.		
22	Rotheacta.		
39	Nuadhas Tronnfoil		
44	Simeon Brase		
46	Muireadaek Bolgach		
51	Eochaidh Uarcess		
55	Fiacha Folgrach		
59	Duach Ladurach		
66	Ugaine Mov.		
67	Bancadh		
68	Laeghaire Lorc.		
69	Cobthach COOIL-breagh		
70	Labbra Longseach		
71	Melg Molbhthach.		
73	Abma Ollamb		
74	Iarn Gleopathach		
76	Conla Cauna		
77	Olioll Cespabalach		

Thus the first ancestor of the modern Crooms was the 85th Monarch of Ireland and there were 32 Monarchs of Ireland on his pedigree.

Sometimes, a descendant of his brother Heber and Ir became Monarch,-- hence the odd numbers above.

Now, about the genealogy in this country of the Crooms:-- I, too, have been unable to get beyond Daniel Croom but I hope to get to Washington, next week, where there are new genealogical books which I shall look over, and will let you know my "findings"

Cordially yours,

H.H. Harwood,
516 W. Grace St
Richmond, Va.

The above information, as copied by Doris C. Outlaw, on October 12, 1956, from the files of Mrs. John T. Vannerson, 702 Sweetbriar Rd. Heathwood, Columbia, S. C., was written in longhand to Mrs. Eva Larkins, Hopewell, Virginia. Mrs. Larkins was an aunt of Mrs. Vannerson. Mrs. Larkins died about 18 years ago. (It is copied to the best of my ability to read the longhand writing of the above signor.)

Here is another record in the files of Mrs. John T. Vannerson referred to above:

Wm. Crome came to America in The Alexander with CAPT. BURCHIE & GILBERT GRIMES. Certificate from Miristor. Mew took oath of allegiance came from Port of London-Transported to Barbadoes- 17 years old.

Book-Jno Camden Hotten Royal Families Edwarde Croome Pg. 124 Book "All the Royal Families of Europe" & Mayflower descendants by Mrs. Herbert, Eliz Rix Ford.

Herman L. Croom, 3317 Old Dominion Blvd., Alexandria, Va., who has done some research recently on the Crooms, writes in part "The name Croom or Croome was known in Maryland prior to 1704. This is proved by the following quotation: "Christopher Rousley, County of Calvert Gentleman, has due 1100 acres for transporting John Beck and Wm. Priest as upon record and is hereby granted parcel of land called Croome in Calvert County on West side Patuxent River and St. Charles Branch (continued next page.)

Census of 1790. Hardy Croom; Dobbs Co.; 1 free white males of sixteen years and upwards, including heads of families; 0 free white males, under sixteen years; 1 free white females, including heads of families; 0 all other free persons; 17 slaves.

Jesse Croom; New Hanover Co.; free white males, etc; 3, free white males under sixteen years; 3 free white females, etc.

John Croom: Stokes County; 2 free white males, etc; 1 free white males under sixteen years; 3 free white females.

Joshua Croom: Dobbs Co.; 1 free white males, etc; 2 free white males under sixteen years; 2 free white females; 9 slaves.

Isaac Crooms: Dobbs Co.; 1 free white males, etc; 5 free white females, 32 slaves.

Richard Crooms; Dobbs Co; 1 free white males, etc; 2 free white females under sixteen years; 2 free white females; 26 slaves.

Major Crooms, Jr.: Dobbs Co.; 1 free white males, etc.; 5 free white males under sixteen years; 4 free white females; 13 slaves.

Wm. Crooms: Dobbs Co.; 1 free white males, etc.; 23 slaves.

Major Crooms, Sr.; Dobbs Co.; 1 free white males, etc; 1 free white males under sixteen years; 1 free white females; 14 slaves.

Lott Croom; Dobbs Co.; 1 free white males, etc.; 1 free white males under sixteen years, 4 free white females; 8 slaves.

These Crooms were held in very high esteem by the people of Dobbs County. The total number of them in this State in 1790 was 52. There were few other, if any, families of this name in this country. "A Century of Population Growth", from the first census of the United States to the twelfth, 1790-1900, contains a table, "Nomenclature, dealing with names represented by at least 100 white persons, by states and territories, at the first census." This table does not contain the name Croom.*

THE CONSTITUTION OF 1776 To make laws and to vote taxes and money, there was a General Assembly, or legislature, of two houses. A Senate and House of Commons. Each county could send 1 representative to the Senate and two to the House. The General Assembly was to be elected and to meet every year. Any free man over 21 years who was a taxpayer could vote for members of the House, but only those who owned at least 40 acres of land could vote for a Senator.

In 1789 N. C. gave to the U. S. its land between the mountains and the Mississippi River.

In 1781 a constitution, called the Articles of Confederation was adopted. A congress in which each state had delegates, was in charge of the government. 1787 a stronger union was formed. N. C. joined the United States, next to the last of the 13 states in 1789.

FEDERALIST AND REPUBLICANS. For 12 years under Presidents Washington and John Adams, the Federalist were in power. They believed in a strong central government controlled by the wealthy upper class of merchants, bankers, and planters. The Republican party, led by Thomas Jefferson, stood for the rights of the states and the common people. N. C. was friendly to Washington and the Federalist at first, but most people were small farmers who soon thought that Washington & the Federalist were running the government more for the benefit of the wealthy and N. C. soon became a Republican state with Nathaniel Macon chief leader.**

* First Federal Census of 1790.

** "History of North Carolina" by Wheeler. R975.6

PART I

CROOMS IN THE FOURTH CENSUS, 1820, NEW HANOVER COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA. Source:

Fourth Census, 1820, Vol. 6, North Carolina, New Hanover County, etc. -----
 Available at National Archives Bldg., Washington, D. C. (Note: Records in original handwriting of census taker. Names below are following by question marks when records not legible.) Figures include the head of the family.

- p. 73. JOHN CROOME. 2 free white males under 10; 2 free white males of 16 and under 26; 1 free white male of 45 and over; 1 free white female under 10
 1 free white female of 16 and under 26; 1 free white female of 45 and over. (Apparently engaged in agriculture; no slaves.)
- p. 74. JOHN (?) CROOM. 2 free white males of 16 and under 26; 1 free white male of 45 and over; 2 free white females of 16 and under 26. (Apparently 2 engaged in agriculture; no slaves.)
- p. 76. WM. A. CROOM. 1 free white male under 10; 1 free white males of 26 and under 45; 1 free white male of 45 and over; 3 free white females of 10 and under 16; 1 free white females of 45 and over (3 engaged in agriculture; 4 slaves.)
- p. 78. MAJOR CROOM. 1 free white male under 10; 1 free white males of 26 and under 45; 1 free white female under 10; 1 free white female of 26 and under 45. (1 engaged in agriculture; no slaves.)
- p. 79. FREDK. CROOM. 3 free white males under 10; 1 free white males of 26 and under 45; 1 free white female of 26 and under 45. (1 engaged in agriculture; no slaves.)
- p. 85. JESSE CROOM. 1 free white male under 10; 1 free white male of 26 and under 45; 2 free white females under 10; 1 free white females of 26 and under 45. (2 engaged in agriculture; 5 slaves.)

Jan. 1957, Research by Herman L. Croom, 3317 Old Dominion Blvd., Alexandria, Va.

CROOMS IN THE SIXTH CENSUS, 1840, NEW HANOVER COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.-----

Source: Sixth Census, 1840, Vol. 7, North Carolina, New Hanover County, etc. ---
 Available at National Archives Bldg., Washington, D. C. (Note: Records in original handwriting of the census taker. Names below are followed by question marks when records not legible.) Figures include head of family.

- p. 23. JOHN CROOM (age between 40 and 50), Rokey Point District, 8 people in family; 5 males; 3 females; no slaves; 1 engaged in agriculture.
- p. 32. LOT CROOM (age group missing), South Washington District; 9 in family; 5 slaves; 4 in agriculture.
- p. 32. HARDY CROOM (age 30-40), South Washington District, 8 in family; 1 slave 2 in agriculture.
- p. 39. JESSE CROOM (age 50-60), Long Creek District 9 in family; 13 slaves, 10 in agriculture.
- p. 39. MAJOR CROOM. (age 50-60), Long Creek District, 8 in family; 2 slaves; 5(?) in agriculture.
- p. 40. F.(I) CROOM (age 40-50) Piney Woods District; 12 in family; 1 slave; 4 in agriculture. Living with family was James Malpas, age 88 (possibly father-in-law), pensioner for Revolutionary War or military service.
- p. 42. WM. R. CROOM. (age 50-60), Piney Woods District; 7 in family; 10 slaves; 7 in agriculture.
- p. 43. JAMES F. CROOM. (age 20-30), Lower Black River District; 4 in family; 5 slaves; 1 in agriculture.

Research by Herman L. Croom, 3317 Old Dominion Blvd., Alexandria, Va. in Jan. 1957.

CROOMS IN THE NINTH CENSUS, 1870, Lenoir County, North Carolina. Available at National Archives Bldg., Washington D. C. All persons listed as white. All heads of families listed as born in in N. C. Kinston Township; Post office, Kinston, N.C.

- P. 27 PENNIE CROOM, Age 22, female, lived in household of Alfred Moore, minister and farmer.
- P. 76 C. S. CROOM, Age 30, Farmer, Real Estate \$2000. No others listed in household.
- P. 76. W. A. CROOM, age 32, Farmer, Real Estate \$4000. Family: Anna M. 28, Joseph 10, Henry P. 6, Wm. C. 4, Emma E. 2.

Here is copy of a letter dated July 10th, 1957, to Mrs. Doris Croom Outlaw,
Kinston, N. C., from Judge Henry A. Grady, of New Bern, N. C.

P. O. BOX 1297

Pine Crest on the Neuse

Phone 2898

HENRY ALEXANDER GRADY
JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT
NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA
July, 10th., 1957.

Dear Doris:

I am giving you a very brief story of my life as requested in your letter of the 5th. instant:

I was born Sep ., 19th., 1871, in the home of my maternal grandfather, Dr. Henry A. Bizzell on College Street in Clinton, Sampson County, N. C. My father was Hon. Benjamin Franklin Grady, and my mother was Mary Charlotte Bizzell. At that time my father was Principal of the Clinton Male Academy.

In 1878 he moved to his plantation in Duplin County, inherited from his father, Alexander Outlaw Grady. I attended the public school at Sutton's Branch, in Albertson Township, and in 1891, when I was 20 years old, I began teaching in Duplin County. In 1892-3 I was a student at the State University. In 1894 I went to Washington, D. C., where I acted as Private Secretary to my father who was a member of Congress. During those years I took the law Course at Georgetown University, and was President of my Class, which was composed of over 300 young men. In March, 1895 I was appointed to a minor position on the U. S. Coast & Geodetic Commission, and served for the balance of that year with a surveying party in Alaska & British Columbia.

In January, 1896 I entered the law office of my half brother, Franklin Grady, at 120 Broadway, New York City, as a law clerk, and practiced there until the fall of 1898, when I came back to N. C. and taught in the public schools of Duplin and Sampson Counties. My father and I operated a preparatory school at Turkey in Sampson County for 2 years, and in 1900 I took the Summer law Course at the University, where I was President of my Class. I was licensed to practice law by the Supreme Court in Sep., 1900, and in November of the same year I formed a partnership with Mr. Henry E. Faison at Clinton, and practiced with him under the name of Faison & Grady for 4 years. I then formed a partnership with my brother-in-law, Archibald McLean Graham, and this arrangement continued until I was elected as Judge of the Superior Court in 1922. I was elected a second time in 1930, so that my total service as resident Judge was 16 years. I then retired, Jan., 1st., 1939, and was Commissioned an Emergency Judge of the Superior Court for life.

I served one term in the State Senate of 1905-6. I was Mayor of Clinton for four years-1917-1921. I also served for four years as a Colonel on the personal staff of Gov. W. W. Kitchin, 1909 to 1912 inclusive. I have been a Master Mason for 55 years, and was Grand Master in 1919. I am a 32nd. degree Scottish Rite Mason, a member of Sudan Temple of New Bern, N. C., Past President of the N.C. Society Sons of American Revolution, and a member of the N. C. Society of the Cincinnati.

In 1938 I purchased my present Home, Pine Crest on the Neuse, near New Bern, and have lived there since that time.

On October, 23rd., 1901, I was married at Wallace in Duplin County, to Annie Elizabeth Graham, daughter of Dr. Daniel McLean Graham. She died Dec., 15-1935. We have 3 living children:

Henry Alexander Grady, Jr., bn. Sep., 3-1903. Member New Bern Bar.
Franklin McLean Grady, Physician of New Bern, N. C., bn. July, 2-1906.
Graham Montrose Grady, Sgt. f/c U. S. Army. Bn. Feb., 9-1913.

Very respectfully,

Mrs. Doris Croom Outlaw,
Kinston, N. C.

s/ Henry A. Grady

Henry Alexander Grady.

Judge Henry A. Grady, after much investigation and study, in his address to the Croom Reunion on August 15, 1937, enlightened the Croom Family in this vicinity as to their true descent, as set out in the following:

ADDRESS DELIVERED AT SANDY BOTTOM IN LENOIR COUNTY, N. C.
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CROOM REUNION, AUGUST 15, 1937
BY JUDGE HENRY A. GRADY

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Among those sentiments which operate most potently upon the human heart, and which are most honorable to the human character, are; first, a deep respect and veneration for one's ancestors, and second, a proper love and provision for those who are to come after us. Such sentiments form the connecting links which unite the past, the present, and the future. Respect for one's ancestors excites in the breast of the normal man a personal interest in their history, an attachment for their manly virtues, and a pardonable pride in their accomplishments. The voice of history has not in all its compass a single note that does not beat in unison with these natural emotions of the human breast. The naked Barbarians of old had im- planted in their bosoms a love of Country, and a reverence for their ancestors that equaled, if it did not excel that of the most polished Statesman of modern times. These sentiments constituted the bed rock of Athenian culture; they gave to Rome a cohesiveness which resulted in its final ascendancy over the entire World; and they burned fiercely in the breast of the Jew when he threw off the yoke of Egypt, and returned to the home of his fathers in the promised Land of Canaan.

Man looks to his ancestors for inspiration, to his contemporaries for execution, and to his posterity for the enjoyment of every laudable undertaking. Such senti- ments are not only wise and wholesome; they are essential to the progress of man- kind, and should be inculcated in the mind of every child born in this land of liberty. It is a debt that we owe to posterity, and to the great race to which we belong.

Edmund Burke, probably the greatest Irishman of the eighteenth century, speaking of the decay of patriotism in France, declared that no people can look forward with confidence to posterity, who do not look backwards with pride to their ancestors. John Ruskin, the great English philosopher and writer, expressed a similar view when he declared that "A land without ruins is a land without memories, and a land without memories is a land without patriotism;" and Sir Walter Scott, the Prince of Scottish story tellers, has poured out to a delighted world the purest and noblest sentiments which pervade the human heart - Love of Country, Love of parents, and pride in the noble achievements of our ancestors.

Burke, the Irishman, was dreaming of Finn and Ossian and Oscar; he was thinking of Brian Boru and that vast array of legendary heroes, whose exploits have been the pride and admiration of every Irishman; Legendary, it is true, but no more so than Homer's Fall of Troy and his vague wanderings of Ulysses.

Ruskin, the Englishman, had read of Arthur, the King, and of his Knights of the Round Table; he had read and absorbed the myths of Guinevere and Lancelot, and of Perceval and his Quest of the Holy Grail. Through the mixed blood of more than thirty generations he claims kin with Alfred, the Saxon, with Edward, the Confessor, and with William, the Norman. The healing hand of time had blotted out their many sins and, to his British mind, they represented all that was clean and noble and good.

Sir Walter Scott had set at the feet of his grandfather and listened to the witch tales which the old gentleman was so fond of telling. He had heard about King Malcom, and how bloody Macbeth had murdered the aged Duncan; he had heard of

37

the Douglass and of Michael Scott, the Magician, until his mind was a storehouse, a Thesaurus of legend and tradition. His magic pen has peopled the glens and caverns of Scotland with pixies and elves and goblins, until those who are familiar with his writings can scarcely travel through that picturesque Country without listening, unconsciously, for the call of a Banshee, or the howl of the wandering Were-wolf. He had read of Robert Bruce at Bannochburn, and of William Wallace at Abbey Craig, and he rejoiced in the fact that though considerably smaller in territory, and far inferior in population, Scotland had never yet bowed its knee to England; nor had the union between the two countries ever been consummated until James VII of Scotland, by reason of his inheritance from his great-grand-father, Henry VII, of England, became James I of Great Britain, France, and Ireland.

These distinguished representatives of three great races spoke the same sentiment, gave expression to the same thought. They made vocal that generous emotion which swells in the heart of every man upon this Earth who is worth to walk uprightly in the image of his Maker, and the world has honored them for it; it has taken off its hat, so to speak, to these three men; but to none more than Sir Walter Scott for penning that beautiful apostrophe to his native land:

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
'This is my own, my native land;
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned
As home his footsteps he hath turned,
From wandering on a foreign strand.
If such there be, go mark him well;
For him no Minstrel's raptures swell;
High though his titles, proud his name,
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim;
Despite those titles, power and pelf,
The wretch all centered in himself,
Living shall forfeit fair renown,
And doubly dying, shall go down,
To the vile dust from whence he sprung,
Unwept, unhonored, and unsung."

The most interesting thing that people can talk about is people. What they say, what they do, what they wear, where they go - these things form the subject of about nine-tenths of the average conversation that we hear on the trains, on the buses, or anywhere else where people gather for casual intercourse. In fact what people do and say today makes up the history of tomorrow. Alexander Pope said that the proper study of mankind was Man, and that is true; it is a fact which we unconsciously accept without proof. Recently, and within the past twenty five or thirty years, the people of this State have begun to take an interest in what the people were doing here many years ago. Who were they, where did they come from, what did they do that was worthy of notice, and what part did they take in the upbuilding of this commonwealth? This search for information takes an added zest when we are able to connect ourselves up by blood with some of the great and good men of the past. We have many families here in North Carolina who can trace their line of descent from some immigrant ancestor who settled in these parts two hundred or more years ago. In making this search for a connecting link with the past, we should be fair to ourselves, and endeavor to learn the truth, whatever it may be. It is a fine thing to be able to carry with you the consciousness of direct descent from some noble ancestry. When one carries such knowledge with modesty and decorum, it adds a charm to his or her personality; but when such consciousness is coupled with vanity; when it takes on an air of superiority, it becomes a proper target for ridicule and scorn.

When we remember that ten generations ago each one of us had more than one thousand ancestors, some good, some bad, and some indifferent, we should be careful in

38

proclaiming our superiority over others who have the same number of ancestors, and probably of the same caliber as our own. If one should start back with his parents, grandparents, great-grand-parents and so on until he reaches the tenth generation, he will see from a mathematical calculation that he had at that time One Thousand and twenty four ancestors. If he should add to that number all of those ancestors who followed down the line, there will be a total of Two Thousand and Forty Six; and to each one of them he will be responsible in part for what he is, be it good or bad. Many of us can go back as much as ten generations since our immigrant ancestors landed in America; and it is a fact that nearly every person in this State who descended from prerevolutionary ancestors, is blood kin to every other person of like descent. Then what right has one of us to turn up his nose at another, or claim a superior origin. We are all peas out of the same pod, and it does not become the pot to call the kettle black.

We had just as well recognize the solemn fact, that there is a skelton in the ancestral closet of every person within the sound of my voice. If you will dig away the cobwebs and rubbish of time you will find it, and your vanity will suffer a severe shock.

When I was invited to come here today and talk to the Crooms and their inlaws I hardly knew what subject to select. I didn't know whether you wanted me to talk about the Crooms or not; and, if so, whether you wanted me to take issue with some others who have spoken and written quite extensively about this large and influential family. Some of the Crooms are kin to me through Anne Grady, a daughter of my ancestor, John Grady. She married Jesse Croom, and they have numerous descendants, who are, of course, related to me in some degree. My friend, John Rodman, who was your speaker last year, is a lineal descendant of Anne Grady and Jesse Croom

As some of you are my cousins, either near or remote, and as all of us are good friends, I am going to speak candidly and truthfully, as I see it, and tell you a somewhat different story about yourselves from what has been told heretofore by speakers and writers. In taking issue with some of your genealogists I mean no harm whatever, and no offense. I want to be candid enough to admit that some of my own conclusions may be erroneous. The historian deals in facts, when there are facts; and some of them deal in fiction when the facts give out. We people here in Lenoir and adjoining Counties want to be honest with ourselves, and deal only in facts. The human race has been split asunder on many occasions, and nations have gone to war because of differing religious beliefs. Argument had been met by argument, until the matter was submitted to the arbitrament of the sword, when as a matter of fact not one of them knew what he was talking about. They had no facts. Blind faith and rank superstition swept reason from its pedestal, and men degenerated into mere beasts. And all of this because the facts gave out. The Baptist says John immersed his disciples; the Presbyterian says he sprinkled them, and the argument begins. The facts give out, for neither of them can prove his faith by any evidence recognized in the Courts of this State.

But when one man declares that two plus two equals four, and another man says it is not so, the proof is at hand; the fact is easily demonstrated, and the one who questions the statement is convinced, if he is at all reasonable, and if he is not, it doesn't make any difference what he believes.

Twenty five years or more ago Judge Oliver H. Allen of Kinston, following a footnote in Hawks' History of North Carolina, declared that the name Croom was a corruption of the German Palatine word Grum, which was pronounced Groom. My old friend and teacher, Dr. Collier Cobb, made the same assertion in an article which appeared in the Daily Press; and Dr. Archibald Henderson, several years ago, declared that Daniel Croom and his three sons, Abel, Jesse and Major, all came over to America with Baron DeGraffenreidt in 1710, and that the Crooms of this State are descended from those three sons of Daniel. He is correct as to the line of descent; but Daniel and his sons did not come over with DeGraffenreidt. In "Caro-

lina and Southern Cross," a magazine published in Kinston, in the issue of April,³⁹ 1914, it is stated as a fact that Herman Grum, the palatine, was the ancestor of the Croom family in this State. Hawks' History was published in 1858. He refers to certain names appearing signed to a petition to the King sometime about 1711 or 1712, in which the names Esler, Renege, Eibach, Morris, Kinsey, Wallis, Miller, Simon, and Grum appear. It is easy to get Isler out of Esler, Ipock out of Eibach, Simmons out of Simon, and we can see how Kornegay might come out of the name Renege if we substitute an initial K for the R, which should be done. Most of these names are familiar to all of us. In Onslow County I know people by the name of Frank, Aman, Koonce, and Hargett, all of whom we knew were descended from Swiss immigrants who were in DeGraffenreidt party; but I am unable to associate the name Croom with Old Herman Grum. The Wells family of Duplin County traces its descent from Jacob Wells who came over with this Colony, as did the Teachey's of Duplin County.

It has been suggested that the descendants of Herman Grum adopted the name of Croom, and that those of them living in Craven County and the surrounding territory go under that name now; but I do not believe it. I dislike very much to take issue with such distinguished men as Dr. Cobb, Dr. Henderson and Judge Allen; and I can hardly blame them for following in the footsteps of Dr. Hawks, who seems to have been the first man to adopt the Palatine theory. But my sense of candor in dealing with historical facts, and the absence of any proof as to the theory of Palatine descent, compels me to state here that the Crooms are not and never were of German origin at all; they are not Palatines.

In the first place the name Croom is pure Irish. There are Crooms in Ireland today, plenty of them, and they have been there for a thousand years or more. In the County of Limerick, about twenty miles to the South of the County seat, is a Town called Croom, which anyone can see from a casual glance at a Map; and there are two Croom Castles in Ireland, so old that no man knows when they were built. The word was originally C-r-o-m, and in the ancient Celtic language, meant bent, curved, or Crooked. Those of you who are familiar with the history of Great Britain and Ireland, know that prior to the introduction of Christianity the Celtic tribes had a strange religion which required human sacrifices, and their priests were called Druids. They worshiped the Sun, the Moon and the other large Heavenly bodies. The New Moon was their Feast God, and they called it Crom because it was curved or bent. During these feast they met in structures of stone, made up of tremendous columns set in a circle, called Cromlechs. As already stated, the word Crom means bent and llech meant stone. The ruins of one of these old cromlechs still stands at Stonehenge in England. Scientists declare that it was built in the 17th Century before Christ, or about thirty six hundred years ago.

It is impossible for us to understand the ritualism of this strange cult, for letters were then unknown, and then too it is supposed that the creed and ritual were secret and protected by the most awful oaths known to man, a violation of which meant death by such torture as even the Devil himself would shudder at.

The naming of men and families after some prehistoric god was very common among the ancient Britons, and also upon the Continent of Europe. The name Gott, which is our word God, is very common in Germany today. From the Celtic God, called Crom, we get the name Cromwell, which means Crom's spring. The word Well is from the old verb wellen, which means to boil, and well originally meant a spring, or a place where water boiled up out of the earth. The well known family of Cromarty is made up of the two words, Crom, and ard, the latter meaning a hill or river bank. The final y means little, so that Cromarty means the little hill of Crom. This final y, meaning little, is found in the words doggy, a little dog, Johnny, little John, and piggy, meaning little pig.

There is not a particle of doubt about the fact that the name Croom is Irish. The question then arises, did the descendants of Herman Grum take the name Croom,

and was he your ancestor, or did your ancestors come into North Carolina from Virginia under their real name, Croom.

In the first place the word Palatine doesn't carry any special significance. It simply means that the person in question came from the Palatinate, a German territory in Bavaria, lying to the west of the Rhine River. According to all available records they were paupers who couldn't make a living at home, and came over here under a promise of food, stock and land. The ruler of the Palatinate was called Count, and the name Palatine was adopted from the Latin name for the hill where the Emperors had their palace - Mount Palatinus.

In the Census of 1723, which was compiled under the direction of the Colonial Government, and found in Hawks' History, Vol. II, Pages 63, and following, we do not find a singlename, which could be any possible corruption or distortion be converted into the name Croom, Groon or Grum, with the single exception of the name Cromen; and that man lived in Bertie Precinct. However, we do find the names Slaver, Isler, Miller, Dipp, Simmons, Perk, Perlerbo, Wixedell, Resebel, Frank, and Fisher, all of whom are listed as Palatines, and living in Craven Precinct. In this same History we find on page 125 that in 1726 an Indian by the name of George Senneka was tried and hanged for the murder of Catharine, the wife of Thomas Groom in Bertie Precinct. We might admit for the sake of argument that Thomas Groom was a son of Herman Grum; but it is far more reasonable to suppose that the name Groom is due to a misspelling by the copyist. There is not a great deal of difference between the letters C. and G., when written with a pen one hundred or more years ago. Such errors in copying are frequent. In the Register's Office of Craven County we find only three Deeds to the Crooms.

1. William Bexley to Abel Croom, dated in 1741, Book 1, page 360.
2. Jard Hickson to Abel Groom, dated in 1744, Book 3, page 6.
3. Ambrose Ariss to Major Croom, dated in 1744, Book 2, page 159.

We know to a certainty who Abel Croom was, and we know who Major Croom was. They were brothers, born in Virginia, and their father was named Daniel. Here we have the letter C changed to G by the copyist. There can be no doubt that fact. We know that Daniel Croom had a son named Abel who moved into what was then Craven County, in the year 1741, the same year that the first deed above referred to is dated; and we also have the record that Major Croom, his brother, moved into what was then Craven County in the year 1744, the same year that he purchased this tract of land from Ambrose Ariss. We also know that Jesse Croom, another brother, moved into North Carolina in 1757. Daniel Croom's Will (the father of Abel and Major and Jesse) is recorded in Goochland County, Virginia, and shows that he died in 1735. He mentions his three sons, Abel, Major and Jesse.

The misspelling of family names by copyists is shown clearly in the name which we call Kornegay. The name originally was Kenege, and was pronounced Ken-e-gy, the accent being on the second syllable. In the transcribed copies of the old records the name is written Renege. We are all acquainted with the Kornegays of Duplin and we know that they never were Renegays. This false copying is further shown in the Census of 1790, which was the first census taken under the Federal Constitution. We find in this Census that Jesse Croom was living in New Hanover County. It is now Pender; that John Croom was living in Stokes County; that Charles Grooms, Jesse Grooms, Sr., Jesse Grooms, Jr. and Daniel Grooms, were living in Wayne County; and Christian Crum, Godfrey Crum and Conrad Crum was living in Rowan and Mecklenburg Counties. The names Christian, Godfrey and Conrad are so purely German that we are bound to know that they were Germans who had come down into that section from Pennsylvania, as so many of them did about that time. The names Daniel and Jesse Grooms in Wayne satisfy us that they were Crooms and not Grooms. Daniel and Jesse are too closely associated with the Virginia family for us to doubt this inference.

Before leaving this subject respecting the misspelling of names, I might call attention to the fact that among the Palatines who came to Newbern in 1710, there was a man by the name of George Kenege, or Kornegay. He signed the petition referred to in Hawks' History, and which will also be found in Vol. IV of the Colonial Records, page 956, where the name is spelled R-e-n-e-g-e. My family came in contact with George Kornegay's people when his son, William, married Elizabeth Outlaw, the sister of my ancestor, Captain James Outlaw. They settled on the North East River, at what is now called Kornegay's Bridge, which bridge was built by this same William, and he and his wife are both buried on the hill, just to the East of the Bridge. Some of the Kornegays have adopted the idea that they are Scotch, and that their name used to be Carnegie, the same as the great Andrew, who founded so many public Libraries; but they haven't a leg to stand on when it comes to proof.

My good friend, Col. William B. Rodman of Norfolk, a great lawyer and a considerable historian, who is also descended from Abel Croom, a son of Daniel, writes me under date July 28, 1937, as follows: "Some years ago I spent some time trying to find out something about the Crooms. I am sending you herewith a copy of what I found as to the ancestors of the three Croom brothers, Abel, Major and Jesse, who migrated from Virginia to North Carolina from 1741 to 1757, settling at first in what is now Lenoir and Wayne Counties, then Craven and later Dobbs. They were not Palatines, German or Swiss, Hawks' query and Archibald Henderson's statement to the contrary. Hawks's sister-in-law, my grandmother, used to say that Hawks knew better. They were Irish in all probability, coming to this Country probably in the latter part of the 17th Century, during the then troublous times in Ireland and England. Their Progenitor, Daniel, lived on the James River above Richmond about 20 or 30 miles, in what was first Henrico, then Cumberland, and now Goochland County!"

I am glad to know that so wise a man as Colonel Rodman has seen the light, and that his mind, like my own, rejects the Palatine theory of the Croom descent.

My personal interest in the Croom family arises from the fact that Jesse Croom, a son of Abel and grandson of Daniel, married Anne Grady, a sister of my great-great-grandfather. This marriage was about the year 1763. They were the parents of the following children: John, who moved to Stokes County, (See Census of 1790) Mary who was born Sept. 18, 1766; Abel, born Jan. 1, 1769; Lydia, born Feb. 6, 1772; Zilpah, born March 4, 1774; Anne (named for her mother) born Jan. 26, 1777; and Elizabeth, born April 1, 1779. This Elizabeth Croom married John Austin Swinson, and is the great-grandmother of my friend, Miss Lilly McIntyre of Rocky Mount, to whom I am indebted for much of the data contained in this address. Through this connection I am related by blood to a great many Crooms in North Carolina. Anne Grady Croom died, and Jesse married Sarah Ramsey. They had the following children: Jesse, Major, Willia R., Laney, Ascenath, Theresa, or Treacy, as she was called; Lott, Nancy, and Hardy. It is probable that a large number of you people here today are lineally descended from this Jesse Croom who married a daughter of my great-great-great-grandfather, old John Grady.

We will not quarrel about the name, or where the Crooms came from. Personally, I do not believe that a single Croom living in this State today bears any kinship to Herman Grum, the poor German Palatine who settled near Newbern in 1710. There does not appear in any of the records of the Croom family, so far as I know, a single German, Swiss or other foreign Christian name, which would indicate such origin as contended by Dr. Henderson, Dr. Cobb and Mr. Hawks. We know that it is customary among all people to name their children for their ancestors. We find any number of Abels, Jesses, Lotts, Daniels and Majors among the Crooms; but no Hermans, no Conrads, no Christians, all of which are typically German. We know as a matter of fact that the Palatines fared very badly at the hands of DeGraffenreidt, and that many of them moved away, out of the Colony. We know as a matter of fact that they came very near starving to death, and the few that survived starvation and disease fell an easy prey to the Tuscarora Indians who had no intention of letting them or anybody else steal their lands. The Province of Carolina was not a very

desirable place to live in during the early part of the 18th century. Even so late as 1723, thirteen years after the Newbern settlement, there were less than 1,000 land owners in the whole Colony. It is my personal opinion that Herman Grum, and his family, if he had any, either left the Colony, or died from hunger, disease or assassination at the hands of the Indians; and that this large and influential family of Crooms, filled as it is with honor and distinction, came directly from old Daniel Croom of Goochland County, Virginia, through his three sons, Abel, Major and Jesse.

It must be remembered that Lenoir County was not created until 1791. Prior to that time Lenoir and Green formed what was called Dobbs County, which was created out of Johnston County in 1758. New Hanover County was created in 1728; and at that time it included Sampson, Duplin, and Pender. Craven County was formed at a much earlier date, and up to 1741, included the territory which is now embraced in the Counties of Johnston, Wayne, Lenoir, and Green; so that when the records show that one of the Crooms settled in Craven County in the years prior to 1746, he may have actually settled in what is now Lenoir, or Green or Wayne; and if it appears that one of them settled in New Hanover County prior to 1749, such settlement may have actually been in Duplin, or in Sampson or Pender; and, as we know, there are Crooms living in each of one of these Counties today.

But, whoever they are, and wherever they came from, it makes little difference at this late date. A member of this family can well say, in the language of Admiral Sampson, when it was asserted by some that Admiral Schley was entitled to credit for the victory over the Spainards at Santiago: "What difference does it make," said he, "there is honor enough for us all." And so it is with the Crooms.

One parting shot at Dr. Henderson and others who claim that you people are Germans, descended from Herman Grum, and I will take up another subject which may be much more interesting. In the Virginia Quit-Rents Rolls for the year 1704, it appears that one Joel Croom was the owner of 600 acres of land. This was six years before the Palatines came to America, and shows that the Crooms were living in Virginia before old Herman ever left Bavaria in Germany. It is possible (but we have no proof) that Joel was the father of Daniel or he may have been a brother. Certainly they were both of Irish blood and were living in the same vicinity. Now we come to that part of the Croom history which is susceptible of actual proof. I speak from the records.

1. Daniel Croom of St. James in the County of Goochland, State of Virginia, made his Will on November 3, 1734. In it he refers to Susannah, his wife, and gives to his sons, Major and Jesse, certain lands. To his son, Abel, he gives 200 acres, being the place where he lived. He mentions a daughter, Dorothy, and declares that she and Major were minors at that time, living with him. He refers to Sarah and Judith Croom as his youngest daughters; so they must have been minors too in 1734. This Will was probated May 20, 1735. The only children mentioned in this Will of whom I have any record were:

2. Abel Croom, the eldest. He married Elizabeth Hardy, while living in Virginia on Deep Creek, in Cumberland County. I get this information from Col. Rodman. He moved to North Carolina in 1741, and settled on the Neuse River, opposite Falling Creek. His children were:

Elizabeth, who married Loverick Young; Jesse II who married first Anne Grady and second, Sarah Ramsey. I have already given you the names of his children. Major Croom II and Hannah Croom, of whom I have no record at this time, other than what appears in the State records respecting Major, to which I will refer later on.

3. Major Croom I, son of old Daniel, moved to Falling Creek in what is now Lenoir County in the year 1744. He was probably born about 1722. He married Olief, or Olive Avery, and they had many children. There were nine sons and one daughter.

12

and I am satisfied that Major Croom and his wife, Olief, were the progenitors of most of the Crooms living in North Carolina today. His children were:

Joshua, born 1750, Sarah born in 1752 and married a Hardee or Hardy, Major Croom, Jr., born 1754, and married Mary Hardee; Isaac Croom, born 1759; Lot Croom born 1761, married Elizabeth Rasberry; Richard Croom, born 1765, married Anne Hare; William Croom, born 1771, married first Mary Bryan of Newbern, and second, Betsy Whitfield. William was the father of Hardy Bryan Croom, to whom reference will be made before I close. There were three sons, Asa, James and Jesse, whose birth dates do not appear in the records. They were probably born, one of them, between the births of Major Croom, Jr. in 1754, and Isaac Croom in 1759; and the other two probably came along between Lott and Richard. This, however, is not very material.

Jesse Croom, the youngest son of Daniel Croom, was born about the year 1728. Like his elder brothers, Jesse Croom moved into North Carolina and settled in what was then Craven County, now Wayne. He sold his lands in Goochland County, Virginia in 1757, and that is probably the year of his migration into North Carolina. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and died sometime after the date of his Will, which was January 2, 1812. His Will is recorded in Book 2, page 115 of Wayne County. His wife was named Mary, but we have no record of her family. His children were: Charles Croom, Daniel Croom, Major Croom, Elizabeth Croom, Mary Croom, Susannah Croom, Zilpah Croom, Sarah Croom, and Jesse Croom, Jr.

In the limited time that I have here at my disposal it would be impossible for me to bring the Croom family down to the present date. Those who are interested can take up the three brothers, Abel, Major and Jesse, and complete their lines to suit themselves. I will only try to point out a few members of the family as shining lights in the history of the State. A careful reading of the Colonials Records and the Histories of North Carolina will show that the Crooms have answered every call to duty, from the time of their advent into the Colony, through the Revolutionary period, the War between the States, and the great World War of 1917-18. Some of them served as Captains, some as Lieutenants, and many as privates. In the realm of science Hardy Bryan Croom stands out preeminently. John W. Moore, speaking of the year 1829, makes this statement:

"One of the debutants of this year was Hardy Bryan Croom of Lenoir. He had graduated at Chapel Hill in 1816. He was highly cultivated both in law and letters. There was much grief in 1837 when it was known that he and his family had perished with the Steamship "Home" off Cape Hatteras."

Mr. Wheeler, another noted Historian of this State, says "that Hardy Bryan Croom was a resident of this (Lenoir) County and represented it in the Senate of 1828. He was born in 1798, educated at the University, and graduated in 1816; read law under Judge Gaston, and was distinguished for his deep and varied acquirements as a scholar, and his kind and courteous bearing as a gentleman. He married a Miss Smith of Newbern."

Hardy Bryan Croom was probably the most brilliant scholar that the family has produced. His hobby was botany, in the study of which he spent considerable time in Florida. The Standard Dictionary says that the flower, called Croomia, was named for him. It was a pity that so brilliant a mind should have been eclipsed at such an early date. He graduated at the age of 18, was in the State Senate at thirty; and was drowned at the age of thirty nine. It was one of those strange events in the lives of men which caused the great poet Wordsworth to say:

"O, Sir: The good die first; but those whose hearts are dry as Summer's dust, burn to the socket."

The first Representative from Lenoir County after its formation in 1791 was Isaac Croom, and its first Senator was Joshua Croom. Isaac was again in the House

in 1793 and 1794. Hardy Croom represented the County in 1800. Abraham Croom in 1812 and 1819, and in 1823 Isaac was again elected. Joshua Croom was Lenoir's first Senator; then William Croom succeeded him in 1793, 1794, 1795, and again in 1806, 1807, and 1808. In 1815 Isaac Croom was State Senator, and then Hardy Bryan Croom was elected in 1828. He was a son of William Croom, called General, and Mary Bryan of Newbern. William Croom was probably a General in the State Militia after the Revolution; but I have no record of his appointment. It is a family tradition. He was called "General".

Lott Croom, son of Major Croom I, was an outstanding citizen, a man of tremendous intellect, and great moral influence in the community. He was born in 1761, and married Elizabeth Raspberry when he was 26 years old. He was the father of Redding Croom who was born Feb. 15, 1795 and married Elizabeth or Elsey Moore. His second child was John Raspberry Croom, born Dec. 21, 1796. He married Susannah Raspberry, probably his cousin. She was a daughter of Joseph Raspberry. The third child was William, born March 6, 1798. Another son, Joseph Raspberry Croom, was born April 4, 1807 and married Nancy Hardee. The fifth son, Admiral Croom, was born June 12, 1810. He married Martha, a daughter of Richard Rouse and Polly Sutton, his wife. Richard was a son of John Rouse, Jr. and Winnifred Smith. The sixth child was Elizabeth, born November 13, 1812. She married Zachariah Davis, and was the grandmother of my dear friend and cousin, Chelly Maxwell, the wife of Robert G. Maxwell of Duplin County.

Lott Croom and his wife are buried somewhere near this Church. His residence was burned a number of years ago. His son, Admiral Croom, occupied the old home after his father's death, and then Lott A. Croom, a son of Admiral, lived there after his father's death. Lott Croom built the original Sandy Bottom Church, which stood near his residence, but was later moved to its present site. He was a Primitive Baptist, and it seems that he governed the Church and the community in which he lived with the iron hand of religious enthusiasm. Such men were needed in that day and time. Probably his greatest contribution to the State and to mankind was his son, the Reverend Joseph Raspberry Croom. He was born in the old home on Neuse River, known as "Croom Hall" or "The Brick House", as the negroes called it. It is said to have been the first brick house built in the County, the material having been brought up the River and landed at Croom's Wharf. Tradition has it that each brick had the Croom initials on it.

Joseph Raspberry Croom married Nancy Hardy or Hardee on January 27, 1829. He was baptised in his father's church at Sandy Bottom on April 16, 1843, by the Rev. Benjamin Bynum. He began preaching in 1854, and his first text was: "He that despised Moses' Law died without mercy under two or three witnesses. Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hadth trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of Grace." What a text! We can almost see, in the mind's eye, the sinner crouch and squirm beneath the fervid oratory of this wonderful preacher, as he pictured to his congregation the tortures that lay in fire and brimstone - the certain fate of him who wandered astray from the Lord's vineyard. He was an able Minister, eloquent and sincere in word and action. He died of cancer, after two unsuccessful operations on March 23, 1860, just 13 days before the 53rd anniversary of his birth. I have heard my cousin Robert G. Maxwell say that Joseph Raspberry Croom was a great friend of his father, Hugh Maxwell, and that his father was so impressed with the character of this great preacher that he named his son for him - Joseph Croom Maxwell, who is now living in Albertson Township, Duplin County.

His children were: Henry Netwood Croom, born Nov. 6, 1829, married Elizabeth Temple; Mary Croom, born 1831, married Rufus Temple; Lott Croom, born July 26, 1832; Major Croom, born Dec. 15, 1833; Hardy Croom, born Dec. 4, 1835; William Allen Croom, born Oct. 9, 1837, married Anne, daughter of Jesse Jackson; Charles

CROOM, JOEL. See records, Part I, this booklet. It is thought that he was either father or brother to Daniel Croom.

DANIEL CROOM
herein
called
GENERATION I.

Copy of will of Daniel Croom is set out in full, Part I, this booklet. He died between the time he made his will in November, 1734, and May 20, 1735. His first wife, Elizabeth, died after May 21, 1728, when she acknowledged release of dower in Goochland County, Virginia. In 1725 they sold 52 acres of land. Daniel Croom married his second wife, Susannah, after about 1729. His widow, Susannah Croom, married Charles Holmes after May 20, 1735, and before July, 1737. From the records it would seem that Abel Croom, Major Croom and Dorothy Croom were children of Daniel Croom and his first wife, Elizabeth, while Jesse Croom, Judith Croom, and Sarah Croom were of the second marriage. (See Part I for early records.)

SONS:

- 2A ABEL CROOM. Probably born about 1710, oldest son of Daniel Croom.
- 2B MAJOR CROOM, B. about 1722, second son of Daniel Croom.
- 2C JESSE CROOM, b. between 1729 and 1734, youngest son of Daniel Croom.

DAUGHTERS:

- 2D DOROTHY CROOM, (under age in 1734.)
- 2E JUDITH CROOM. (under age in 1734.)
- 2F SARAH CROOM, (under age in 1734.)

BEGINNING GENERATION II FROM DANIEL CROOM.

2A ABEL CROOM. Probably born about 1710 in Virginia, as he was of age in Nov., 1734. When his father, Daniel Croom, made his will in Nov., 1734, he was living on one of his father's plantations in Goochland County, later Cumberland, Va. Abel Croom married Elizabeth Hardee (or Hardy) before 1734 while living on Deep Creek in Virginia. Abel sold 200 acres of his patrimony Jan. 20, 1737 (Book 3, Pg.88, Goochland Co. V.) and 100 acres on Oct. 17, 1741. He bought lands in Craven County, N. C. (probably Lenoir County now) on South side of Neuse River in 1743 (Deed Book I, Page 360, 1743.) He bought from J. M. Buxley 100 a. on north side of Neuse River and west of Whitley Creek. (Deed Book 3, Page 6-Craven County Registry, New Bern, N. C.) John R. Hickson, of Craven County to Abel Croom (grantee) for 100 pounds of current money 100 acres of land on north side of Neuse River on head of Tom's Branch. (Craven County Records.) N. C. Dept. of Archives and History, Raleigh, N. C.: Court Minutes, Court of Dec. 1745- Petition of Abel Croom praying to keep a ferry over Neuse River on upper side of Whitley Creek, Granted. George Marshall sold land to Abel Croom. (index, Lenoir County, Kinston, N. C.) Children of Abel Croom and wife, Elizabeth, and their descendants will be found in Section A, Sub-Sections, 3A(1), 3A(2), 3A(3) and 3A(4) Part III, this booklet.

2B MAJOR CROOM. (I or Sr.) B. on James River, near Richmond, Virginia, about 1722, second son of Daniel and his first wife, Elizabeth Croom. His mother died after May 21, 1728. Major Croom was in Bladen County, N. C., Aug. 20, 1743, from where he sold land inherited in Goochland County, Virginia, in 1735. (Deed Book 4, Page 205, Goochland County, Virginia) He purchased land north of Neuse River near Falling Creek March 30, 1744, by conveyance, Craven County Registry, Deed Book 2, Page 159. 1744, and in this deed one of the witnesses is Loverick Young who married about 1744 Elizabeth, daughter of Abel Croom and wife, Elizabeth. He was in Dobbs County in 1747. (Lenoir Co. formerly part of Dobbs.) The Courthouse of Lenoir County burned about 1880, destroying most of the records. An old index was found after the fire which (continued next page.)

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Pg 193
19

Division of the lands of Major Croom desc. by
com. missioners among the lawful heirs namely
Chilly Croom, Pally Croom, Isham Croom
in right of his wife, Silvia Croom, Alex'r,
and Benajah Croom 28 apr 1825

Pg 82 Jesse Croom to son Major 4 May 1806

Pg 123 + 124 (1813)

(continuing Major Croom, previous page;) Herein numbered 2B. lists grantors and grantees, but it contains no dates, therefore the exact descriptions are not found. In this booklet children of Major Croom are set out in Part III under Sub-Sections followed by descendants of each insofar as available, as follows:

- 3B(1) JOSHUA CROOM. B. 1744, D. 1800.
- 3B(2) SARAH CROOM. B. 1752, D. in or before 1798; md. Joseph Hardee.
- 3B(3) MAJOR CROOM, JR. B. March 29, 1754; md. Mary Hardee.
- 3B(4) ISAAC CROOM. B. 1759, D. 1795 at 36 years old.
- 3B(5) LOTT CROOM. B. 1761, D. 1830; md. Elizabeth Rasberry.
- 3B(6) RICHARD CROOM. B. 1765, D. June 28, 1805; md. Ann Hare.
- 3B(7) WILLIAM CROOM. B. 1771, D. May 9, 1829; md. 1st. Mary Bryan; 2nd. Eliza (Elizabeth or Betsy) Whitfield. (May have married 3rd time.)
- 3B(8) ASA CROOM.
- 3B(9) JAMES FREDERICK CROOM. B. 1783, D. 1852 ;md. Rebecca Malpass.
- 3B(10) HARDEE CROOM. B. D. 1810.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON MAJOR CROOM. (While some believe that Major Croom appearing in records following referred to Major Croom, son of Abel Croom, persons descending from Major Croom, son of Daniel Croom, have been accepted for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution organization. It is my opinion that some of the records refer to Major, son of Daniel, while others may refer to Major, son of Abel.)

MAJOR CROOM is listed in the Lenoir County records as having purchased real estate more than forty times, some of the grantors being: Richard Caswell, Winston Hughes, John Turner, Arthur Herring, Richard Byrd, James Lawson, Lovick Young, Abraham Bush, William Lewis, David Huges, and others.

MAJOR CROOM acquired by GRANT from the state five or six thousand acres of land. (apparently a wealthy planter) Volume 22, Colonial Records, Kinston Public Library.--also N. C. Archives & History, Raleigh, N. C.

Vol. 9, Colonial Records, Pages 592-593. Major Croom was on Richard Caswell's bond when Caswell was appointed in 1773 Treasurer of twenty eastern Carolina counties.

Vol. 22, Colonial Records of North Carolina: "He and son Joshua marched to attack of Regulations around Hillsboro." He and oldest son, Joshua, in 1771, were transporting material for Governor Tryon. He and son Joshua both were in Revolutionary War. Vol. 22, Pages 456, Colonial Records of N. C.: "To Capt. Major Croom, his son Joshua, and his two negroes" for charges on ye Bay Boat that carried Governors. Liquers and Provisions for his Excellency's troops from New Bern to Benjamin Shackelworth.

Colonial Records of N. C. ; Pages 592-593: Major Croom appointed Commissioner of Magazines, for the District of New Bern. February, 1779,

Colonial Records of North Carolina. Box of Militia Returns, 1770-1779, No. 4, Pg. 590. "Drafted in Capt. Kennedy's Company 26th July, 1777."

A marker on the shore of Neuse River in New Bern states Major Croom was a member of the Committee of Safety for the District of New Bern during the Revolutionary War. Vol. 10, pages 415, 417, Colonial Records of North Carolina. Also F 253

Wheeler, John H. Reminiscences and Memoirs of N. C. & Eminent North Carolinians Columbus Printing Works, Columbus, Ohio, 1884. Page 129, Chap. IV. Craven Co.

"It was in New Berne that the first provincial congress was held, in open opposition to the authority of England (August 25, 1774) which appointed deputies to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia (Caswell, Hewes & Hopper)--- The Committee of safety for New Berne, were Dr. Alexander Gaston, Richard Cogdell, John Easton, Major Croom, Roger Ormond, Edward Salter, George Burrow, James Glasgow, & others. The town of New Berne was incorporated in 1723, by the legislature then sitting at Edenton."

Under Taxables in Dobbs County as returned by Magistrates for year 1769, Major Croom is listed as follows: (continued on next page.)

Some of these are MAJOR SR
Some of Major son of Abel

"CROOM, MAJOR & Eight Negro fellows & seven wenchs, one riding chair		
white	black	Total
1	15	16

Colonial Records of N. C., Vol. 9, Page 692, Major Croom, Juror.
Also see Historical Sketches of North Carolina by Wheeler.

2C JESSE CROOM. B. between 1729 and 1734, youngest son of Daniel Croom and son of his second wife, Susannah. In 1735 he was living in Goochland County, Va. being under age in November, 1734, the date of his father's will. After his mother's death, he inherited the plantation on which Daniel Croom's widow, Susannah, and children lived in Virginia. He sold lands in Goochland County, Virginia, in 1757. He was living in North Carolina on October 12, 1757. He may have been living in North Carolina shortly before that time. On Oct. 12, 1757, Jesse Croom "of North Carolina, Johnston County, North Carolina," sold "a parcel of land and premises given to him according to the will of his deceased father, Daniel Croom" Deed Book 4, Page 205, Goochland County, Va. In 1779 Wayne County was created from the western part of Dobbs.

CENSUS 1790.

JESSE CROOM, SR. WAYNE COUNTY. 1 free white males of 16 years and upwards. 1 free white male under 16, 5 free white females, 4 slaves.

JESSE CROOM, JR. WAYNE COUNTY. 1 free white male of 16 years and upwards, 2 free white females.

CHARLES CROOMS, WAYNE COUNTY. 1 free white males over 16, 2 free white males under 16, 3 free white females, 2 slaves.

CHARLES CROOMS, WAYNE CO. 1 free white male over 16.

DANIEL CROOMS, WAYNE CO. 1 free white male over 16.

In old index book in Lenoir County, N. C., salvaged from the Court House fire in 1880, Jesse Croom is listed as having bought land from Bryan McLendon, Elijah Croom, Christopher Holmes, Charles Holmes, Rhoda Croom and others.

The will of JESSE CROOM, dated June 2, 1812, recorded in Bk. 2, page 179, office of Clerk of Court, Goldsboro, N. C., in Wayne County, names the following: Mary, his wife; Elizabeth Langston, Mary Griffin, Susan Howell, Sara Coor, and Zilpha Davis, his daughters; Charles, Major and Jesse, his sons; and Susannah Sitterton (Tetterton), Needham Langston, Richard Langston, Mary Langston, and Mary White Coor, his grandchildren. Charles and Major Croom were executors of his estate. August Court, 1812.

Mary Croom died, inventory February 20, 1817. Wayne County, N. C., Book 4, Page 61. Will of Mary Croom, dated 1824, (discrepancy in dates.) Daughters: Mary Griffin, Sarah Coor, and Zilpha Davis. Granddaughters: Nancy White Britt and Mary Croom, daughter of Major Croom. Division between Charles, Jesse and Susannah Croom.

For descendants of Jesse Croom, see SECTION C, PART III, and Charts 2A, 8, 8A, 8B etc

2D DOROTHY CROOM. B. in Goochland County, Virginia, before 1729, oldest dau. of Daniel Croom. She was a minor in 1734 when her father made his will.

2E JUDITH CROOM. B. in Goochland County, Virginia, between 1729 and 1734, dau. of Daniel. With Sara Croom, she inherited movables should her mother die or marry. (Her mother married before 1737.)

2F SARAH CROOM. B. in Goochland County, Virginia between 1729 and 1734, daughter of Daniel Croom. With Judith she was to inherit her father's movables should her mother die or marry.

* See Charts, Part II.

***See SECTIONS A, B, AND C, Part III, for genealogy of Abel Croom and Jesse Croom, respectively.

daughter should

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EXPLANATION OF HOW TO FOLLOW LINE OF DESCENT FROM DANIEL CROOM THROUGH HIS SONS, ABEL CROOM, MAJOR CROOM AND JESSE CROOM.
 (Copy of Will of Daniel Croom is set out in Part I of this booklet)

In this Booklet the line of descent begins with Daniel Croom (herein Generation I) (B. about 1683 - D. May, 1735). In this booklet his children are numbered as follows: Abel Croom, No. 2A; Major Croom, No. 2B; Jesse Croom, No. 2C; Dorothy Croom, No. 2E; Judith Croom, No. 2F; and Sarah Croom, No. 2G. The descendants of his three sons insofar as I have been able to obtain are set out III as follows:

Section A:

Code: 2A stands for Abel Croom, Generation II, son of Daniel Croom.
 3A stands for Generation III from Daniel Croom through Abel Croom (continue as above on through succeeding generations from Daniel Croom through Abel Croom, son of Daniel Croom)

Section B:

Code: 2B stands for Major Croom, Generation II, son of Daniel Croom
 3B stands for Generation III from Daniel Croom through Major Croom (continue as above on through succeeding generations from Daniel Croom through Major Croom, son of Daniel.)

Section C:

Code: 2C stands for Jesse Croom, Generation II, son of Daniel Croom
 3C stands for Generation III from Daniel Croom through Jesse Croom (continue as above on through succeeding generations from Daniel Croom through Jesse Croom, son of Daniel)

Each person has a number. The first number preceding a name determines generation from Daniel Croom. The first letter following the first number indicates which child of Daniel Croom through which descent is traced. The letter "A" denotes a descendant of Abel Croom, the letter "B" denotes a descendant of Major Croom and the letter "C" denotes a descendant of Jesse Croom. For instance, the first grandchild of Abel Croom through Abel Croom's first named child would be listed as 4A(1)-1 if it was the first child of Abel's first child. This would be fourth generation from Daniel Croom through Abel Croom, son of Daniel Croom.

Brothers and sisters have the same number with the exception of the ending. This ending is determined by the order listed in the previous generation. To find the mother or father through which descent is traced, drop the ending and go one generation to the generation preceding. To find the children of the mother or father through which descent is traced, proceed forward to next generation. The children will have the same number with an ending added, except the first number preceding the letter will be one larger number. If ages were known in the book was set up, the eldest child usually is listed first, but not in all cases.

(An example follows in each Sub-Section of Part III of this booklet)
 (An example follows in the beginning of Section A and Section C.)

C _ H _ A _ R _ T _ S

- B. = Born
- D. = Died
- M.D. = Doctor of Medicine
- md. = Married to
- o. = Changing Generations

The numbers on the charts have no specific meaning except if a chart is succeeded by another they are closely related.

Begin reading from the bottom of each chart. Descent begins with Daniel Croom whose will is set out in Part I, even though the chart may begin with a later generation. The purpose of the charts is to aid in tracing the lines of descent from Daniel Croom. Either through inadvertance or for lack of space, all may not be on one chart, but it is hoped that one may find his line of descent through the numbers in the genealogy section of this booklet.