

6118 Creola Road
Charlotte, N.C. 28226

April 25, 1984

Dear Charles B. Ellis;

Your letter of March 12th to my youngest sister, Mrs. Alton L. Finch of Pipeville, N.C. was handed to me by her last week end (Easter) as my wife and I visited my father at the old Aycock home place. The reason she gave me your letter is because I wrote the story of my mother's family and the Aycock home place for the Wayne County Heritage book, and she felt I can be more help to you. The reason I had her submit the story for the book is that she wanted to include a picture of her husband with some of his prize watermelons grown there on the old Aycock home place and she had to pay a certain fee for each picture entered. I also contributed the Fremont history in the same book, but the Old Sober (Wayne County) Genealogical Society women who edited it literally butchered it up so badly I hardly was able to recognize it as my work. They left out whole paragraphs and stories, leaving it without flow or continuity. You may be interested to learn it was your Aunt Mollie Yelverton Ellis who persuaded me to do it in the first place. She was the Fremont area representative for the book. As teen agers, Mollie and I dated a time or two in high school.

To answer your first question in your letter, "who was my great-grandfather Calvin Aycock's father?" His name was SIMON AYCOCK (born circa 1780 d. 1844) married Kizzie Barnes (b. 1790 - (1794) don't know when she died. Simon's will is in Goldsboro (Wayne County) dated December 12, 1843. He (Simon) inherited land running from Memorial Baptist (Primitive Baptist) Church across Great Swamp to Reedy Branch, Wayne County, N.C. Served with brother James in executing his father's will (Jesse Aycock b. 1743 d. 1823 on same land). Jesse Aycock's will was probated in ~~July~~ 1823 in Wayne County (Record Book V, page 71, Wayne County N.C.) Will mention Jesse again further down in this letter.

My great-grandfather Calvin Aycock married Charity Barnes (b. 1809 d. 1862) daughter of Mary Horn and John Barnes. Not only was Calvin's wife a Barnes, but so was his mother also. That is why he named a son "Barnes" (b. 1844 d. 1926 - and I personally remember him). Apparently your great grandmother Mendas thought so much of her younger brother she named one of her sons Barnes Robert (your grandfather).

(Calvin and Charity died of smallpox (Dec 1862 - Jan 1863) and were buried by their own slaves (neighbors so feared the dread disease and all their sons, ~~from~~ were in Confederate uniform. They are buried in the old Barnes Aycock

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Aycock graveyard $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Fremont on Highway 222, near junction or intersection of Highway #581. Only my grandfather (Gary Frank) who was 16 when Lee surrendered and too young to enlist until then—never served. My mother used to tell me stories Gary Frank told her about his four brothers who served in Confederate army.

Incidentally, Simon Aycock's land embraced or included the Barnes Aycock graveyard on Hwy 222.

Simon's father Jesse served in the Revolutionary War in Col. Benjamin Esum's Company, received a 3,360 pound note and several grants of land as compensation, owned 2,358 acres of land in 1786 census, and ended up owning considerably more than this before he died.

At this point still unproven is Jesse Aycock's parents names. We believe his father was William Aycock (b. 1705 Prince George County, Va.) who married 2nd Mrs Rebecca Pace Bradford a young widow. They had only two children: Wenigred acock (sic) b. 1741 and Jesse b. 1743 d. 1823. There is some oral history in the Aycock family told me as a child by my great-uncle Joshua Thomas Aycock of Fremont that when Jesse Aycock was only two years old, his

parents bought some land in present Wayne County. Jesse's older half-brothers by his father William's first marriage (a woman whose last name was Pope) were: 1) Simon Acock b. d. Wayne County; 2) Thomas Acock b. d. 1807 Wayne County; 3) John Acock all owned land already in present Wayne County in the Fremont area. This is why Jesse's father decided to join them. The story goes that as the little family of four were crossing a rain-swollen river, on a raft, their horse fell overboard and ~~lodged~~ under the raft. William, the father, (already in his late forties) jumped in to save the horse. Both were drowned. Somehow young Rebecca managed to steer the raft with her two young children and their cart with all their worldly goods safely to the other side of the river. We are not told how she made the rest of the trip, except that she did go and claimed their land and married a third time, this time to a man named Hooks by whom she had eight more children.

I'm glad you included information about yourself and your family, and I personally think it is great you are interested in your family tree.

I am currently President of the Mecklenburg (County) Genealogical Society here in

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Charlotte. I have authored one book to date: THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF CAPTAIN HENRY A. CHAMBERS. 1983. BROADFOOT (Wendell, NC). I wrote the biography of Captain Chambers to accompany his diary (3 1/2 years - JAN. 1862 to April 24, 1865) which is the longest, continuous and uninterrupted diary of any North Carolina soldier in the Civil War, and had never been published. I have part of his original diary in my possession (June 1st 1863 - April 24, 1865).

My mother, Annie Charity, the youngest child of Gary Frank Aycock, died Jan. 15, 1978 and is buried in the old Barnes Aycock graveyard on Highway 222 west of Fremont. My father is still living at the old homeplace. But it was my mother who very early in my life instilled in me a deep interest in my Aycock heritage that gave bent to history and genealogy (local) on a broad scale. I now have what I regard as the largest library of North Carolina and Civil War rare and out of print books in the state - over 5,000 volumes.

My father would be delighted to share cuttings of the old ragging vine with you. Just let us know how many you want and we will let you know when to pick them up. Please let me know if I can be of further help to you.

Sincerely,
Selby A. Daniels