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Johnston Co. Heritage US+Can Bk Area

Nov. 1904 Allen/Ambrose? Messergill; Mattie Ellen Allen b. 23 Aug. 1891 md. 25 Oct. 1914 W.J. Cox; Beadie Allen b. 12 Apr. 1897 md. 22 Dec. 1912 C.L. Tew. Hanson Hawkins Allen made his will 7 June 1921 and gave land to each of his children. He desired that the tract of land known as the Sanders Tract or Cow Bones place, in Ingrams Twp. adjoining Jim Guin and others, to be sold and the money be divided among his six children. This tract known as "Cow Bones" has been mentioned in land deeds since John Lee, Esq. willed it to his children in 1768. He left his wife Samlily 100 acres of the Tom Allen land in Elevation Twp. of Johnston County, "the birthplace of Hanson Hawkins Allen."

The above land that was willed by Ransom H. Allen in Elevation Twp. was a portion of the land he received from his father. After the death of Thomas Allen (Jr.) ca 1873, wife Elizabeth Means Allen and the younger children moved from the place in Elevation Twp. to one in the area of the Devil's Race Track and lived near her son Ransom Hawkins Allen. All four of Thomas Allen and Elizabeth's sons were under 21 years of age when he died ca 1873.

Source: Personal interview with E. Hatten Allen; cemetery records; title records; will, estate and marriage records of Johnston Co.

—Charlie D. Thomas

THOMAS AVERA AND HIS DESCENDANTS

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Thomas Avera, whose will was probated in Johnston County in 1761, is acknowledged as the progenitor of the Avera/Avery families of the county. Thomas' wife's name was Judith and she is reported to have been a Jones, but family researchers have been unable to find the proof for this.

Thomas and Judith had the following children who were named in his will: Alexander, Thomas Jr., John, William (see later), Moses, Isaac, Henry, Samuel, Elizabeth (who married a Jones), and Mary.

William, son of Thomas and Judith, married Rachel, whose maiden name is unknown. There is some speculation among some Avera/Avery researchers that Rachel may have been an Aventon or Avention as the given name of Aventon/Avention only appears in their descendants. Further research may prove or disprove the theory. William's will, probated 3 Dec. 1795 names his surviving children as: Aventon (see later), Samuel, Phereby (who married a Norris), Lowrany (who married a Smith), Sarah (called Sally and who married William Walton), Dyrnthia (who married a Durham). Also named in the will was his granddaughter, Elizabeth Durham.

Avention Avera, b. ca 1775 d. ca 1849, married 16 Nov. 1800 to Sarah Frost, daughter of James and Isabella (VanDyke) Frost (see related story). Avention's estate papers give his three surviving children as: Avention Jr. (see later), Rachel married to Bryant Harper, and Polly who married Reodick Adams.

Avention Avera Jr., b. 3 Dec. 1819 d. 1 May 1887, married 3 Feb. 1851 to Joanna Eason, b. 26 May 1835 d. 8 Nov. 1893. She was the daughter of Hardy and Mary (Shaw) Eason (see related story). Avention Jr. and Joanna's children were: Sarah Ann b. 19 Sept. 1854 d. 6 Apr. 1939, married 9 Dec. 1864 to Sylvester Carr Turnage (see related story), Mary E. "Molly" b. 1855 d. 1937 married William Monroe Pittman and their children were: (1) Fanny who married Alvin Stancil, (2) Will who married Tempe Lancaster, (3) Cora who married first Nivago Pittman second Lam Jones and third a Stancil, (4) Lizzie who married Oscar Pose, (5) Arthur who married Minnie Starling, (6) Mame who married first Tom Stancil and second Charlie Eason, (7) Stedley who married Lydia Booth (8) Monroe who married Lillian Creech (9) Ida who married Barden Brown, Martha "Mattie" b. ca 1857 married Oscar Smith and their children were: Oscar and Annie who married a Green.

William "Billy" b. 7 Aug. 1861 d. 16 June 1907 married 13 Dec. 1883 to Beadie Turnage their children were: Julian who married Lilly Rose, M.V. "Jack" who married Leone Edwards, Annie who married James L. Smith, Rufus "Bud" who married Maggie Parker, Hubert who married Frances Morris, Chole who married Thomas Scott, Pearl who married Herman Sullivan, Lilly who married Elbert Godwin.

John Thomas b. 3 July 1864 d. 1 Sept. 1935 married to Mary Langdon, their children were: Walter who married Bessie Sherron, Paul who married Ann Langdon, Callie who married Isaac Henry, Nellie who married Frank Morris, and Horace who married Ollie Mae Parrish.

Cynthia Florence b. ca 1866 d. 15 Jan. 1935 married to Jimmy Langdon, their children were: Lizzie who married Eugene Creech, Charlie who married a Dodd, Lula, Cornelius, William and Gertrude who married Floyd McConnell.

Aurilla b. ca 1865 married 1 Oct. 1899 to George Watson and their children were: Flora, Howard, Rayford and Lola.

Abner "Joe" b. 7 Mar. 1872 d. 29 Dec. 1913 married 29 July 1900 to Mittie Price and child was named Person (they may have had other children but if so are unknown to this researcher).

David Hardy b. 24 Jan. 1876 d. 13 Apr. 1954 married 12 Aug. 1897 to Eva Poole and their children were: Bessie who married W. Avery Godwin, Sue who married Robert Laughter, Louis who married Beulah Ryals.

Source: Will, estate records, marriage and death records of Johnston County and family records.

—Sadie M. Aycock

BERRY LAWRENCE AYCOCK FAMILY

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Berry Lawrence Aycock was born July 1847 in Wayne County, N.C. He was the son of Simon Aycock Jr. and Mary Revel. He was married 22 Oct. 1871 to Sarah Jane Barnes (b. 11 Dec. 1853) daughter of John H. Barnes and

Velurah Wellons.

During the early years of their marriage they lived in Wilson Co., N.C. Sometime around 1876 they moved to Johnston Co. to the old Wellons homplace near Micro, N.C.

Berry Lawrence and Sarah Jane had ten children:

(1) John William (b. 4 Oct. 1872 d. 5 May 1915) married 3 Dec. 1903 to Kate Carol. They made their home in Rocky Mount, N.C. Their daughter and son, Claude and Jack still live there together in the homplace.

(2) Charles Beckwith (b. 10 June 1874 d. 17 Oct. 1943) married 18 June 1902 Kate Shuckland. They made their home in Curran, N.C. They had three daughters: Leta, Lucile, and Rachel and one son, Charles. Only Rachel is still living and she is a retired schoolteacher in Dunn.

(3) Ernest Oscar (b. 2 Dec. 1876 d. 2 Dec. 1915) see related story.

(4) Mary Eliza (b. 26 Nov. 1878 d. 5 Nov. 1951) never married, she lived with her parents in Micro.

(5) Edward Harvey (Bud) (b. 15 June 1880 d. 17 Jan. 1956), he never married. He was a successful businessman in Rockingham, N.C.

(6) Dominic Pearl (b. 4 Dec. 1881 d. 29 Dec. 1940) never married. She taught school in Panama and for many years in Micro. She became a legend in the school world and by former students cherish her memory.

(7) Henry Thomas (b. 7 Dec. 1883 d. 8 July 1885)

(8) Richard Noble (b. 22 May 1888) is still living in Charlotte, N.C. He married Mildred Myatt 22 Nov. 1916. They had four sons: Richard, William Lawrence, Everette, and Dan, and one daughter, Janis. Richard lives in Smithfield.

(9 & 10) Berry Lester and Leslie Barnes, twins born 8 Mar. 1889.

Berry Lester married Myrtle Edwards on 11 Sept. 1919. They had one daughter, Janis, who lives in Raleigh. Berry Lester practiced dentistry in Princeton for many years. He died 23 July 1961.

Leslie Barnes married Fannie Williams on 19 Nov. 1919. They had a daughter, Louise, and a son, Ben. They made their home in Rocky Mount where he was the city manager for years. He died 18 Oct. 1971.

Berry Lawrence Aycock was a farmer and businessman. He died 20 July 1912.

Sarah Jane Barnes Aycock died 29 May 1947 at the age of 93. Both Berry Lawrence and Sarah Jane, along with four of their children, Ellis, Edward, Pearl and Henry are buried in the Aycock-Wellons family cemetery near Micro, N.C.

Source: birth, death, marriage and family records. —Sadie M. Aycock

ERNEST OSCAR AYCOCK SR.

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Ernest Oscar (called Oscar) Aycock b. 2 Dec. 1876 d. 2 Dec. 1915, was the third child of Berry Lawrence Aycock and Sarah Jane Barnes of Micro, N.C. (see related story). He

1946) and Thomas Lester (b. 28 July 1949).

(2) Elizabeth Woodall Aycock (b. 25 Mar. 1910) married Frank Reid of Charlotte, N.C. and they have two daughters: Betsy (b. 16 Sept. 1939) and Margaret (b. 25 Aug. 1942). Mrs. Reid still lives in Smithfield.

(3) Margaret Barnes Aycock (b. 17 Aug. 1911) married Mr. Harold King of Ohio and they have two sons: Harold Jr. (b. 21 Aug. 1937) and Robin Aycock (b. 24 Nov. 1940). Mrs. King is still living in Smithfield.

In 1915, Mr. and Mrs. Aycock Sr. came back to Smithfield (they had lived in Keely and Micro for several years) and moved into their new home on the corner of Fourth Street and Woodall Street. They had lived there only two months when Mr. Aycock died of a heart attack on his 39th birthday. Mrs. Ina Aycock continued to live in their home and reared their children there. She died in March of 1977.

Sources: Birth, death, marriage and family records.

—Sadie M. Aycock



Oscar Lafayette Aycock



Ina Woodall Aycock (Mrs. E.O., Sr.) b. 23 Aug. 1886; d. 29 Mar. 1977.

OSCAR LaFAYETTE AND SENA MASSEY AYCOCK

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My father, Oscar Lafayette Aycock (b. Dec. 23, 1869; d. Feb. 13, 1938) was born at the old homestead in northern Wayne County. He was the son of Jacob (b. Aug. 6, 1829; d. Oct. 16, 1898) and Charlotte (Martin) Aycock (b. July 29, 1834; d. Nov. 18, 1903), both of Wayne County. Jacob donated one acre of land to build a Primitive Baptist Church which is very active today, called Aycocks' Church, located near Jacob's homestead.

My father attended Trinity College which is now Duke University. Interested in agriculture and business, during the summer he worked at farming to help him through school. After graduation he purchased a 250-acre farm not far from the homestead and close to his brothers. Soon after that he married Sena Massey (b. Feb. 28, 1871; d. Dec. 12, 1968) from Princeton. They settled on this farm two miles north of Fremont. I used to hear my Mom say "this land was poor as Job's turkey hen." But being the good farmer he was and having the "know how," he soon had rich land that grew top quality tobacco.

All of us grew up close to our cousins and had a great time growing up together. After church on Sundays there was always a big ball game in someone's back yard.

We had a beautiful red horse with a black mane and tail, named "Zeb" and a pretty black buggy with top that we drove to school at Fremont for a couple of years. They were my happiest days because I would sit in my sister's lap and she would let me drive. I loved "Old Zeb" — we had a great time riding his back, four or five would get on his back at one time; he wouldn't hurt a flea. My Dad kept him as long as he lived. Everybody had to shed a tear for "Old Zeb" when he passed on.

Our homestead was on Aycock's Church Road, which is the Old Black Creek Road. The oldest of my brothers and sisters was Myra



Sena Massey Aycock

Charlotte Aycock (b. Aug. 15, 1835; d. Jan. 19, 1979) who first married Ballington Booth Montague (Bessie), and after his death married Stephen Dewey Hunt (b. April 17, 1907). Oscar Letard was born Sept. 6, 1897 and married Ruby Roycroft (d. Dec. 1923; b. May 26, 1903).

Ruby is living in Granville County. Jacob Wesley (Sept. 1, 1899) married Ozie Mae Welferton of Wayne County, Wade Hampton (b. Jan. 28, 1902; d. Feb. 1, 1975) married Beulah Holland (b. June 5, 1908 of Wayne County, and she died Sept. 29, 1981); Ernest Glenn (b. Dec. 22, 1903; d. Dec. 2, 1950) married Ina Creech of Johnston County; Sadie Ethel (b. July 31, 1906; d. Nov. 1, 1968) married Aaron Stephenson from Greensboro, N.C.; Emma Grace married Charles John O'Neil from Quincy, Illinois; Ruth married Johnny Jones Dees and after his death married Paul Reveré Birst of Roanoke, Virginia; and



Ina Woodall Aycock (Mrs. E.O., Sr.) b. 23 Aug. 1886; d. 29 Mar. 1977.

grew up near Micro on the family farm and later attended Turington Institute in Smithfield, N.C. While in school, he lived in what was known as the "barracks" — this was where the male students "boarded" who lived away from Smithfield.

As a young man, he worked as a letter in the Bockert-Smithfield and later went into the lumber business in Kinty and Micro, N.C.

On the 22 Nov. 1905 he married to Ina Isadora Woodall (b. 23 Aug. 1886; d. 9 Mar. 1977) daughter of Willis Lester Woodall and Betty Vandorn Moor (see related story). He had met Miss Woodall while attending Turington Institute. They had three children.

(1) Ernest Oscar Aycock, Jr. (b. 15 Sept. 1907; d. 26 July 1983) who married Sarah Elizabeth (Sadie) Massey (b. 13 June 1917) daughter of Samuel H. Massey and Emma Turnage (see related story). Ernest and Sadie had two sons: Samuel Ernest (b. 28 Dec.

Mary Edna married Ellis Thurman Hooks of Fremont, N.C.

Sources: Personal knowledge and the Bible of D.L. Aycock and Sara Macey Aycock

— Sarah M. Johnson
Mrs. Paul Darst

THE RICHARD NOBLE AYCOCK FAMILY

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Richard Noble Aycock was born on a farm between Micro and Pine Level in Johnston County 22 May 1886. His father was Berry Lawrence Aycock and his mother was Sarah Jane Barnes. (See related Aycock and Barnes histories.) This farm was the Wesley Freeman Wellons homestead. W. F. Wellons had given it to his daughter Velarah Wellons who in turn gave it to her daughter Sarah Jane Barnes Aycock. Richard Noble was the eighth child in a family of two daughters and eight sons. The farm in 1983 is owned by the heirs of Roger Smith.

The Noble in Richard's name was for a Dr. Noble who practiced in Johnston County around the turn of the century, and many children were named for him during these times. Families paid Dr. Noble \$100 per year to visit the home and check on family members. When Richard was about four years old, during tobacco barning time, he found a jar of liquid and drank the contents, as children are apt to do. It contained whiskey, and Richard became unconscious. Dr. Noble came, filled a pot with whiskey and bathed Richard in it. He survived.

When Richard was three years old, his father who operated a store in Selma at that time, went bankrupt. There had been a drought and he was not paid by his customers so he in turn could not pay his bills. The father told his creditors, "I expect to pay you and I will pay you." It took 14 years for him to pay these debts.

In growing up, the Aycock boys had little time for play. They would work from sunup to noon, busy with their noon meal so as to have time to play a little baseball, then back to work in the fields until sunset.

Richard received his early education in the local country schools and later at Turfington Institute in Smithfield. At age eight he started to Gerald School which was about half way from his home to Pine Level. When he was 18 he got a "first grade" certificate allowing him to teach at one of the county schools. He taught at Yelverton School for 25¢ per hour for six weeks one summer. He also taught at Pearce's School for four winter months at \$40 per month.

At about this same time, the owner of Pine Level Oil Mill came to Richard's father and asked if he had a son who was good with figures. (Through the years the Aycocks had been known for their mathematical abilities and Richard had kept the books for the family farm records for years. When Richard was only three years old his mother had him count each piece of wood as he brought it in for the



Richard (Right) and Mildred (Left) Aycock about 1916

kitchen. His father told the man Richard could do the work if he could see the books as they had been done by the previous bookkeeper. Thus he became bookkeeper for Pine Level Oil Mills, a job that he held for 19 months.

On 26 March 1907, he entered banking as a junior clerk at New Bern Banking and Trust in New Bern. On 15 Oct. 1910 he was made cashier of the Bank of Morehead City. On 15 Jan. 1914 he took the job of cashier of First National Bank (later First-Citizens) in Smithfield.

While in Smithfield he met and married Mildred Myatt, daughter of Columbia Perry and William Acrl Myatt of Raleigh. They lived in Smithfield for about a year and a half, and their son Richard Noble Aycock, Jr. was born 16 January 1918.

In July 1918 Richard became National Bank Examiner for N.C. and moved his family to Raleigh while he was at this work for about two years. On 15 March 1920 he became vice president of First National Bank in Gastonia, N.C. There were three boys and one girl born while the family lived there. William Lawrence was born 22 April 1920. Jane Myatt born 28 Nov. 1922. James Everett born 12 Sept. 1924, and Daniel Oliver born 9 Dec. 1929.

The Great Depression came and in Dec. 1934, after serving about a year as comptroller of the defunct First National Bank, Richard became an executive in the Gison and Rhyne chain of cotton mills in Lincolnton, N.C. They moved there in May 1935. In Dec. 1941 he took the job of treasurer of Rulane Gas Co., a propane gas concern in Charlotte and they moved there in May 1942. He stayed with Rulane Gas Company until he retired in about 1953.

The children of Richard and Mildred are all living in different areas in 1983. Richard, Jr. finished high school in Gastonia and received a B.S. degree from Davidson College in 1939. He married Frances Evelyn Turner in Lincolnton 12 April 1941. He entered the Air Force in July 1942 and served in the United States and

CBI theatre until Dec. 1945. After also working with Rulane Gas Co. in Charlotte for about a year and a half in 1947 Richard, Jr. moved to Smithfield where he opened an LP Gas business and operated it until he sold it and retired in 1979. They have one daughter Frances Evelyn Dalton and one son Richard, III.

William Lawrence, the second son, lives in Fayetteville in 1983 and is with the N.C. Natural Gas Co. He married Judith Aultry and they have daughters Jean Elizabeth, Judith Ann, Carolyn Jane and son James Lawrence. Jane Myatt, the daughter, is married to William J. Stinson and lives in Myrtle Beach, S.C. where he is president of Myrtle Beach Farms. They have three sons William Jean, Jr., Richard Lawrence and James David. James Ewyer, the third son, is in the real estate business in Kingsport, Tenn. He has two daughters Jane Gail and Alison Crowell and son Jeffrey Lawrence. Daniel Oliver, the fourth son, married Darbara Baumgardner and they live in Rock Hill, S.C. where he is in the gasoline and hardware business. They have three sons Daniel Oliver, Jr., Robert Martin and Douglas Alan.

Mildred and Richard continue to live in Charlotte, and in 1983 live at Sharon Towers Presbyterian Home in Charlotte. He is 97 and she is 87.

Sources: Birth, death, cemetery and family records and family knowledge.

— Evelyn T. Aycock

IDA BAILEY

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A letter from Santa Claus, 1906.

My dear, I was in my little room thinking what I can put in your stocking. Candy, nuts, and all good things to eat are all in the stores locked up. Now please tell me parties, I've got your stocking. A horse-headed, a ladder, a tree with one of earth's beautiful trees.

Santa Claus
Jan. 5, 1906

This treasure, reproduced exactly as "Santa Claus" wrote it, was found in the W. T. Bailey family papers collected by his daughter Alevy Bailey Stallings. 'Ida' was W. T. Bailey's wife, Ida Blanche Richardson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Richardson who lived in the Pine Ridge community of Franklin County.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Bailey were the parents of eight children including James Dobbin Bailey who presently has been a resident of Kenly eighty-three years. He has one son, James Charles Bailey.

— Suzanne S. Bailey

JAMES CHARLES BAILEY

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James Charles (Jimmy) Bailey was born December 17, 1941. He graduated from Kenly High School in 1960 and from Campbell College in 1964 with a degree in business administration. After graduation, he entered the J. Dobbin Bailey business with his father.

Jimmy Bailey is active in community affairs as was his father and grandfather. He is a member of the Kenly Kiwanis Club, having