



Elizabeth Pearson White, C.G.
434 Berkeley Avenue, Box 297
Winnethka, Illinois 60093

Certified Genealogist

December 4, 1973

Dr. Richard R. Grayson
103 West Main Street
St. Charles, Illinois 60174

Dear Dr. Grayson:

Enclosed is more information about John Wren Grayson and his ancestry. The Census of 1850 for Decatur County, Indiana (transcripts enclosed), show that Wren Grayson was born in North Carolina in 1782; he said he was 68 years old in 1850. His wife, Rebecca, age 61, was born in Virginia. This is confirmed by the 1880 Census of Jefferson County, Indiana, in which John Grayson said that his father was born in North Carolina and his mother was born in Virginia. John himself said in 1850 Census report that he was born in Tennessee. His brothers, Henry, Wren and Sanford, as well as his probable brothers, Joseph and Benjamin, were also born in Tennessee. John's wife, Permelia, said that her parents were born Kentucky and Virginia.

There was also a Benjamin Grayson living in Lawrence County, Indiana who was ten years younger than Wren Grayson, and was also born in North Carolina, and who may be his brother. Therefore, their father would have to be one of the two Graysons listed in the North Carolina Census of 1790 -- both in Wilkes County, "Morgan District, Ninth Company" (Census of North Carolina, 1790, pub. 1908, p. 123):

Ben Grayson -- 3 males over 16; 2 males under 16; 2 females; no slaves.
Jn^o Grayson -- 1 male over 16; none under 16; 1 female; no slaves.

Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution (Durham, N.C. 1932):

p. 381 - Benjamin Grayson, served in the Militia, No. 4239, Morgan District.
p. 625 - Thomas Grayson, on Roll of Militia prisoners on board Prison Ship, 18 May 1781.

It would seem from this that Benjamin Grayson, born perhaps about 1750-60 (age 15 to 25 at start of the Revolution) would be worth looking into. The John Grayson mentioned may have been newly married, not having any children - or he was possibly an elderly man, and father of Benjamin. But he would not appear to have been the father of your Wren Grayson who was eight years old in 1790. The Benjamin Grayson born in North Carolina in 1792 could have been the son of either John or Benjamin.

✓ Bounty land in Tennessee was given to North Carolina Revolutionary War veterans. Bounty land in Arkansas was given to Tennessee veterans of the War of 1812. (Benjamin Grayson of Lawrence County, Indiana, a probable brother of Wren Grayson, Sr., had children born in Arkansas.)

Taylor Sanderson Township

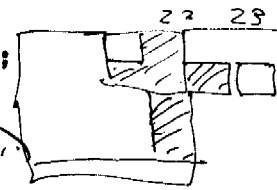
Does the Grayson family entry in Tyler's Quarterly, which you mentioned, have anything about a Benjamin Grayson who went to North Carolina? Enclosed are three pages photocopied from E.G. Swem; Virginia Historical Index, which show many Benjamin Graysons and John Wrens. Do you have all of these, or should I look them up? (Since our phone conversation this evening, I will keep these to look up the Grayson family in North Carolina.)

John Wren Grayson must have been in Indiana in 1832, for he said his daughter, Sarah A., age 18 in 1850, was born in Indiana, and his first daughter was born in Kentucky, in 1830. I am enclosing some interesting Old Kentucky Land Entries and Deeds which you may find interesting, even though Wren Grayson is not listed.

Indiana Land Entries, Vol. II, by Margaret R. Waters, (Indianapolis, 1949); shows land entries for the Vincennes District, 1807-1877.

p 144 - Benjamin Grayson, 31 Aug 1835; 24 June 1836 (E-NE. SW-NE-S22; SW-NW-S23;) (E-SE-S22).

p 144 - John Grayson, 9 Jan 1836; (SE-NW-S23). (See son John?)



land entries files 12/24/73

You asked me to mention my impressions of the family from these fragmentary, indifferent records. It seems to me that a family who lived among slaveowners without owning slaves, such as the Graysons in North Carolina, and who moved to the southern part of Indiana, just over the border in a "free" state, leaving their slaveholding friends in Tennessee and Kentucky behind them - that family was more than ordinarily conscientious and hard-working. They apparently were not Quakers, although that may come out later. But so far, their attitude seems to have been one of fundamental scruples rather than religious preaching. There was a family cohesiveness, for several Grayson families lived near John and Permelia Grayson on Cemetery Street, in the Sixth Ward of Madison, Indiana, in 1880.

I also think that there must be some relationship between these Graysons and Susannah Monroe, for Sanford Grayson, age 26 in 1850, named his youngest son "Monroe". (He may have other children later).

December 5, 1973

In going over this material, it seems possible that the John Grayson living in Wilkes County, North Carolina (Census of 1790) may have been a Revolutionary soldier from Virginia, the father of the Benjamin listed in the same Census. He could have been quite elderly in the 1830s when the Graysons came to Indiana, and been buried in the private Wynoose Cemetery mentioned by your relatives. The name John was certainly a popular name among the Graysons.

I will look for the Grayson family in the William and Mary Quarterly, and Virginia Magazine of History, etc., at Northwestern University Library on Friday. It is a marvelous place to work, with everything on 'open shelves'. But they don't have as much pure genealogy material as Newberry Library. I will also look for Witherspoon-Todd-Cummins Genealogies at Newberry on Saturday, as mentioned in our phone conversation this morning.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth P. White

(Mrs. Henry G. R. White)

Enclosures:
Census Reports, 5 pages
Photocopies, Kentucky
Land Records, 9 pages

Census of 1880
Jefferson County, Indiana

p. 10 Dwelling 100; Family 104 6th Ward, Cemetery Street, Madison, Indiana
 (written) A. J. Grayson, age 40, Printer, born Indiana, Father b. Ind.; Mother b. Ind.
 (no printed number) Matilda, age 37, born Iowa, Father b. Iowa; Mother b. Iowa.
 Laura, age 18, born Indiana, Father b. Ind.; Mother b. Iowa.
 William, age 15, " " " " " " ; at school.
 Frank, age 12, " " " " " " ; at school.
 George, age 9, " " " " " " " " "
 Lottie, age 6, " " " " " " " " "
 Howard, age 2, " " " " " " " " "

Should be 42 errors

p 191 Dwelling 135; Family 143 Cemetery Street, 6th Ward, Madison, Indiana
 Sylathiel Grayson, age 43 Printer born Ind.; Father b. Ky.; Mother, b. Ky.
 Mary age 43 born Ind.; Father b. Ky.; Mother, b. Ky.

Charles
 Willie
 Mamie
 Gertrude

same as Bertie? (1774)

should be Mrs. Price - where is he? 12/8/23

wrote

(I searched the Census of Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana only to find a confirmation of the birthplace of Wren Grayson, father of John Wren Grayson. Since it is un-indexed, I wrote down information about other Graysons found along the way, and stopped in the middle of Sylathiel because John appeared at that point. I am sorry now that I didn't continue in that neighborhood, as you seemed interested in the results.)

Rebecca Grayson married William P. Dement. She was John Wren's daughter.

Other facts found:

Maybe Wren joined later as an officer

here is Benjamin of Lawrence Co., Ind.

Record of Commissions of Officers in the Tennessee Militia, 1796-1811, Vol. I, by Mrs. John T. Moore, (Nashville 1947) (Vol. II was at Fort Wayne Ind., being photocopied. Your Wren Grayson may show up in that volume).

p 116 Benjamin Grayson, Lieutenant, 2nd Regiment (40th) March 18, 1811. "Knox County had two Regiments, First Regiment (the 10th Reg. as of June 1792) and the Second Regiment (the 40th same date)"

The war started 1812

*sent to county court records
 search for 1812
 because when John was born 12/16/73*

Talley's Kentucky Papers by William M. Talley (Fort Worth, Texas 1966):

p. 150 (C-96) March 26, 1816 Robert H. Grayson and wife Sophonisba to Moses Kirby . . . tract in Greenup. Heirs of Wm. Grayson may have salt water. Witness: Samuel Dement and John Anglin.

p. 175 Newspaper Items Independent Gazeteer, Nov. 2, 1804 Married on Friday Evening last, Alfred W. Grayson, Esq. of Mason Co. to Letitia P. Breckenridge, daughter of the Hon. Breckenridge . . . of this County.

Rutherford County Wills, North Carolina, 1779-1822, by Mrs. W. L. Davis
 Joseph Grayson witnessed will of Thomas Street. 23 August 1795 (page 22)