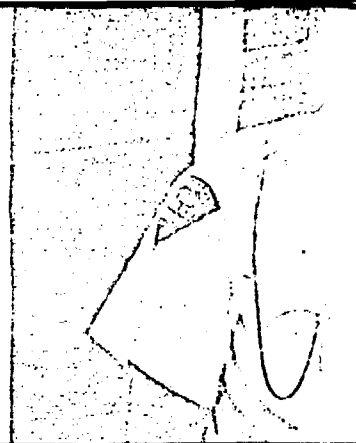
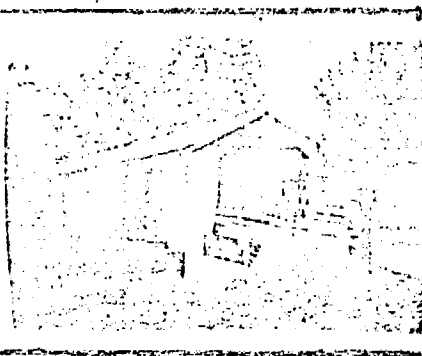


This week's history of the Grayson family of Rutherford County, was written by Mr. Miles Philbeck, Jr., R-1, Beattie, N.C. We appreciate his sharing his records with the readers of this column. Any other descendants who might have additional data on this family is invited to correspond with Mr. Philbeck. The sketch of the Grayson family will appear in two parts and will be concluded in next week's column.

Bridges To The Past

by Mrs. Ernest Newco
Route 2, Ellenboro, N.C.
and Roy Brooks
Box 661, Forest City, N.C.



In almost all family lineages there are lines which present themselves virtually impossible to untangle except for scanty bits of information derived from the public records. Such is certainly the case with the GRAYSON family of Rutherford County.

Joseph Grayson established himself in this area by 1779 when he received a tract of land from the state. He made further purchases from the state in 1782, 1785, 1787, 1795, 1797, and 1801. He also purchased land from James Whitesides (1789), Moses Moore (1789), Thomas Whitesides (1793), John McNitt Alexander (1799), Peter Watt (1802), and Prury Logan (1806). The total content of these tracts is well over one thousand acres primarily situated on First Broad River in northeastern Rutherford County.

From Virginia, it is not known where Joseph Grayson first married, nor to whom he was first married. However his first marriage(s) produced at least five children: Joseph, Jr., Benjamin, William, Isaac, and Susannah. When Joseph's sons became of age he sold them various parts of his estate: Joseph, Jr., 159 acres; Benjamin, 178 acres; William, 72 acres; and Isaac, 159 acres. These tracts were primarily from Joseph Sr.'s purchases of 1796, 1799 and 1802.

On Dec. 17, 1807, Joseph Grayson, Sr., married again, this time to Rachel Van Zandt, daughter of Garrett Van Zandt. No children are known to have been born to this marriage. After Joseph, Sr.'s death, dower was assigned to his widow Rachel, whose will was filed for probate in 1828. Rachel's legatees were Green Crow and wife Jane (Street) Crow, and their children Rachel, Elizabeth, Lettiss, Isaac, James G., and Abraham Crow. Lewis Van Zandt and Joseph Grayson, Jr. were her executors and witnesses to the will were Hugh Watson and William Grayson. After Rachel's death her dower assignment was divided, at least in part, among her husband's sons: Isaac Grayson, lot #3; Benjamin Grayson, lot #4; Joseph Grayson, Jr., lot #5; and William Grayson, lot #6. William Grayson subsequently acquired each of these lots, as indicated in his will, dated 16 February 1831 and recorded in Rutherford Will Book E, pp. 77-78. The legatees of William Grayson were (1) his son Benjamin Grayson, the homelace; (2) his daughter

Patsy Queen, the dower allotment to Benjamin Grayson; (3) his daughter Elizabeth Grayson, the dower allotment to Joseph Grayson, Jr.; and (4) his daughter Sally Deviney, the dower allotment to Isaac Grayson and his own dower allotment.

The above WILLIAM GRAYSON, son of Joseph Grayson, Sr., married Oct. 17, 1807, Susanna Logan. Their son Benjamin G. Grayson married Sarah Heuser, daughter of Peter and Sarah (Hefner) Heuser of Lincoln County, N.C. Benjamin G. Grayson later moved to St. Francois County, Missouri. Of the daughters of William and Susannah (Logan) Grayson, Patsy married James A. Queen, Elizabeth (Betsy), b. ca. 1810, married William W. Jones, and Sally, b. ca. 1808, married Jenkins Deviney. The Mt. Zion Baptist Church Minutes indicate that Sally Deviney died 30 November 1880 and Jenkins Deviney died 17 February 1881.

JOSEPH GRAYSON, JR. married March 19, 1807, to Letty Melton and subsequently moved to Kentucky.

BENJAMIN GRAYSON, son of Joseph Grayson, Sr., married by 1800 Hannah Melton. A comprehensive list of their children is not in the writer's possession. However, RC Dd. Bk. 29-el, p. 328; RC Dd. Bk. 48, p. 465; and RC Dd. Bk. 48, p. 469 indicate clearly that their children included three sons: Joseph C. Grayson, John M. Grayson, and William G. Grayson. These deeds concerned a tract which Benjamin Grayson received from his father - in-law's estate.

Joseph C. Grayson, son of Benjamin and Hannah Grayson, was born 13 January 1804, died 23 April 1884, and married Jan. 23, 1827 Eliza R. Wilson, who was born 4 November 1804 and died 31 December 1856. Joseph C. Grayson was a Baptist clergyman, and he and his wife, are buried in the Harmony Grove Baptist cemetery in McDowell County, N.C. Joseph C. and Eliza R. Grayson were the parents of:

- (1) Jonathan Baty Grayson, b. ca. 1830;
- (2) Elizabeth A. Grayson, b. ca. 1832;
- (3) Elizabeth A. Grayson, b. ca. 1834;
- (4) Mary J. Grayson, b. ca. 1836;
- (5) Margaret E. Grayson, b. ca. 1838;
- (6) Fatima E. Grayson, b. ca. 1840;

- (7) Joseph W. Grayson, b. ca. 1842;
- (8) Louisa C. Grayson, b. ca. 1844;
- (9) Alfred F. Grayson, b. ca. 1846;
- and (10) Albert L. Grayson, b. ca. 1848.

John M. Grayson, son of Benjamin and Hannah Grayson, was born about 1806, died about 1855, and married Mary Melton. Their children included:

- (1) Benjamin Grayson, b. ca. 1830;
- (2) Elizabeth L. Grayson, b. ca. 1834, m. A. W. Hunt;
- (3) Samuel Grayson, b. ca. 1838;
- (4) Narcissa Emaline Grayson, b. ca. 1842, m. Calvin Melton;
- (5) J. Columbus Grayson, b. ca. 1846;

and (6) Amanda A. Grayson, b. ca. 1850, m. Elisha Hunt. William G. Grayson, son of Benjamin and Hannah Grayson, was born about 1814 and married 28 April 1835 Christiny McCurry, who was born about 1816 died Sept. 1879 of chest dropsy, daughter of K. J. and Hannah McCurry. William G. and Christiny Grayson were parents of three children:

- (1) John S. Grayson, b. about 1836, married Minerva Jones;
- (2) Alfred M. Grayson, b. about 1837, d. 8 August 1862 in Civil War service;
- and (3) K. J. Mc. Grayson, b. 16 December 1838, d. 16 September 1923, m. 11 November 1860 Mary Letitia Melton, b. 12 January 1841, d. 30 April 1911, daughter of Daniel and Narcissy (Fortune) Melton.

John S. and Minerva Grayson were the parents of seven children: DATE COMPLETED

- (1) Eliza A. Grayson, b. 27 Oct. 1861, d. 8 Oct. 1949, m. Johnny Yeton;
- (2) John Marion Grayson, b. 12 January 1864, d. 23 April 1940, m. Mary Jane Gurley;
- (3) Mary Emily Grayson, b. 4 August 1866, d. 7 April 1917, m. Opeconough (Catie) Melton b. 31 August 1861, d. 20 Dec. 1931 (the writer's great-grandparents);
- (4) William Jackson Grayson, b. 10 May 1870, d. 29 December 1967, m. Hattie Gurley;
- (5) Joseph Wilson Grayson, b. 2 May 1872, d. 6 April 1954, m. Martha Ida Yeton;
- (6) George Washington Grayson, b. 13 Oct. 1875, d. 21 January 1917, m. Alice E. Gurley, and (7) Alberta Narcissus Christina Grayson, b. 18 March 1877, d. 1 November 1866, m. Jasper Young Yelton.

Police Chief J.

Forest City

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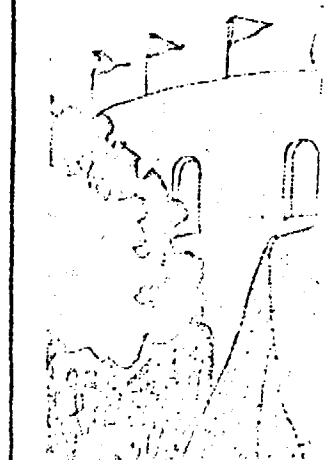
FT. POLK, IA - Priv. James K. Bradley, 18, son Mr. and Mrs. Jack M. Bradley, Route 2, Forest City, has completed nine weeks of advanced individual training at the U. Army Infantry Training Center, Ft. Polk, La.

He received General training as a light weapons infantryman and as a mortar and coilless Rifle Crewman, in:

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Page 2

The Grayson Family History—II

We are continuing this week the second part of the GRAYSON family from the records of Mr. Miles Philbeck, Jr., Rt. 1, Bostic, N.C. In last week's column, as occasionally happens, the gremlins got into column, causing a family mixup; and rather than attempt to place the correct children with their proper parents, we are asking you to disregard the last part of the column beginning with the family of William G. and Christiny (McCurry) Grayson. The corrected family lineup is

repeated in the following.

William G. Grayson, son of Benjamin and Hannah Grayson was born about 1814 and married 29 April 1835 Christiny McCurry, who was born about 1816, died September 1879 of chest dropsy, daughter of K. J. and Hannah McCurry. William G. and Christiny Grayson, b. ca. 1836, m. Minerva Jones; (2) Alfred M. Grayson, b. ca. 1837, d. 8 August 1862 in Civil War; and (3) K. J. Mc. Grayson, b. 16 Dec. 1838, d. 10 September 1903, m. 11 Nov. 1860 Mary Letitia Melton, b. 12 Jan. 1841, d. 30 April 1911, daughter of Daniel and Narcissy (Fortune) Melton.

John S. and Minerva Jones Grayson were parents of: Sara Fina Grayson, m. Duffie D. Freeman; Alfred B. Grayson; William J. S. Grayson; and Marion B. Grayson.

K. J. Mc. and Mary Melton Grayson were the parents of seven children (1) Eliza A. Grayson, b. 27 October 1861, d. 8 October 1949, m. Johnny Yelton; (2) John Marion Grayson, b. 12 January 1864, d. 23 April 1940, m. Mary Jane Gurley, b. 12 January 1864, d. 23 July, (3) Mary Emily Grayson, b. 4 August 1866, d. 7 April 1917, m. Specannough (Canie) Melton, b. 31 August 1861, d. 20 December 1931 (the writer's great-grandmother), (4) William Jackson Grayson, b. 10 May 1870, d. 29 December 1967, m. Hattie Gurley; (5) Joseph Wilson Grayson, b. 2 May 1872, d. 6 April 1954, m. Martha Ida Yelton, (6) George Washington Grayson, b. 13 Oct. 1875, d. 21 Jan. 1917, m. Alice E. Gurley; and (7) Alberta Narcissus Christina Grayson, b. 18 Mar. 1877, d. 1 Nov. 1966, m. Jas-

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per Young Yelton.

ISAAC GRAYSON, son of Joseph Grayson, Sr., married August 20, 1807, Mary (Polly) Melton, who was born about 1786, and died in November, 1859. A comprehensive list of their children is also not known by the writer. However, two of their daughters were the third and fourth wives of Henry H. Houser, son of Peter and Sarah (Heiner) Houser of Lincoln County, N.C. Lucy M. Grayson, b. 3 December 1827, d. 20 July 1856, m. 4 August 1854, Henry Houser. Lucy died during childbirth of their only child, a stillborn infant, Mary Caroline Grayson, b. about 1822, d. in March, 1880 of pleurisy, m. 7 April 1858, Henry H. Houser. They were parents of two sons, John Franklin Houser, b. 1859, and Jefferson Davis Houser, b. 1861.

Circumstantially and traditionally, it is apparent that Isaac and Polly Grayson were the parents of a son John M. Grayson, who was born 9 June 1813, died 7 July 1891, and married 25 June 1836 Rebecca Hunt, who was born 10 April 1816, and died 21 September 1910. John and Rebecca Grayson were parents of at least twelve children:

- (1) Mary L. (Polly) Grayson, b. 13 April 1838, d. 13 June 1924, m. Hampton Weaver;
- (2) William G. Grayson, b. 20 August 1840, d. 9 January 1920 m. Julia Melton;
- (3) J. H. Grayson, b. 10 March 1842, d. 8 February 1843;
- (4) Martha Grayson, b. ca. 1845, unmarried;
- (5) Sarah L. Grayson, b. 17 May 1847, d. 21 June 1922, m. Elijah D. Mooney;
- (6) John M. Grayson, b. 19 April 1850, d. 23 February 1937 m. Louisa J. Whitty, DAVIS
- (7) Rebecca Elizabeth Grayson, b. 6 Sept. 1852, d. 8 October 1940, m. John C. Weeks;
- (8) Williamson Fortune Grayson, b. ca. 1854, m. Sarah Melton;
- (9) Lucy M. Grayson, b. 8 December 1857, d. 20 October 1940, m. J. Thomas Rags;
- (10) Eliza Lorena Grayson b. 22 March 1859, d. 19 Feb-

ruary 1919, m. John Decator Freeman (also the writer's great-grandparents);

(11) Nica Caroline Grayson, o. 21 July 1861, d. 9 September 1918, m. Samuel W. Harrison;

(12) Isaac (Leonard) Grayson, b. ca. 1863, m. Alice (Polly) Melton;

SUSANNAH GRAYSON, daughter of Joseph Grayson, Sr., married Robert Black Deviney, son of Aaron and Sarah (B. Deviney). Proof of Susannah's relationship to Joseph Grayson is found in RC D3, 1845, p. 397. Robert B. and Susannah Deviney were the parents of at least seven children.

- (1) Sally Deviney, m. John Frewet;
- (2) Jane Deviney, b. ca. 1841, m. John Brackett;
- (3) Joseph G. Deviney;
- (4) Jenkins Deviney;
- (5) William Deviney;
- (6) Benjamin Deviney;
- and (7) Aaron J. Deviney.

(8) ROSANNA GRAYSON Deviney;
m. Hicks
A granddaughter here a descendant of Isaac & Polly Grayson

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