

Chapter 2: Our Redding Family Moves to North Carolina

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Profile of the Second Francis Redding I

Our line of the Redding family begins, as far as we have proved at this writing, with a Francis Redding found in Halifax County, North Carolina, records from 1758 to 1779. This was probably the son of the Francis Redding who was in Surry County, Virginia, records from 1743 to 1751. We assume that the first Francis was born about 1700-1715 in Surry (later Sussex) County, Virginia, and died about 1770 in Halifax County, North Carolina. The assumed son of Francis I, whom we will call Francis II, was probably born about 1735 in Virginia, moved to Halifax County, North Carolina, with his father about 1758, moved to Wake County, North Carolina, about 1780, and died in Wake County in 1804.

Our proven line of Reddings goes to Francis II who made a will Wake County in 1801, probated in 1804, in which he named his wife, Mary, and eight children, including James (our ancestor, born about 1760). Mary may have been Francis II's second wife, as some of the children were much younger than others. Speculation on birth dates is that Francis's children were born as follows: Francis, Jr. [Francis III] (1755), James (1760), Daniel (1765), Selah (1768), Elvena (1775), Mary (before 1780), Robert Allen (after 1780), Randolph (1786), and Elizabeth (after 1780). At the time of Francis II's will in 1801, Allen, Randolph and Elizabeth appear to have been unmarried minors living at home.

James Redding, our ancestor born about 1760, is in Wake County records from 1787 to 1804; in White County, Tennessee, from 1812 to 1818; moved to Madison County, Illinois, about 1818; to Morgan County, Illinois, about 1824; and then to Schuyler (later McDonough) County, Illinois, by 1830; and finally to Des Moines County, Iowa (near Burlington), by 1834, where he died in 1839. James had married Susannah Crocker in North Carolina, where their first of five children, James, Jr., was born in 1788. The last of their children, Francis (Francis IV), born in North Carolina in 1798, is our ancestor, the father of John B. Redding (born 1826 in Illinois) who was the father of Alfred Fear Redding (born 1855 in Iowa) who was the father of Chancey Francis Redding (born 1891 in Missouri) who was the father of Roy Lee Redding (born 1920 in Kansas).

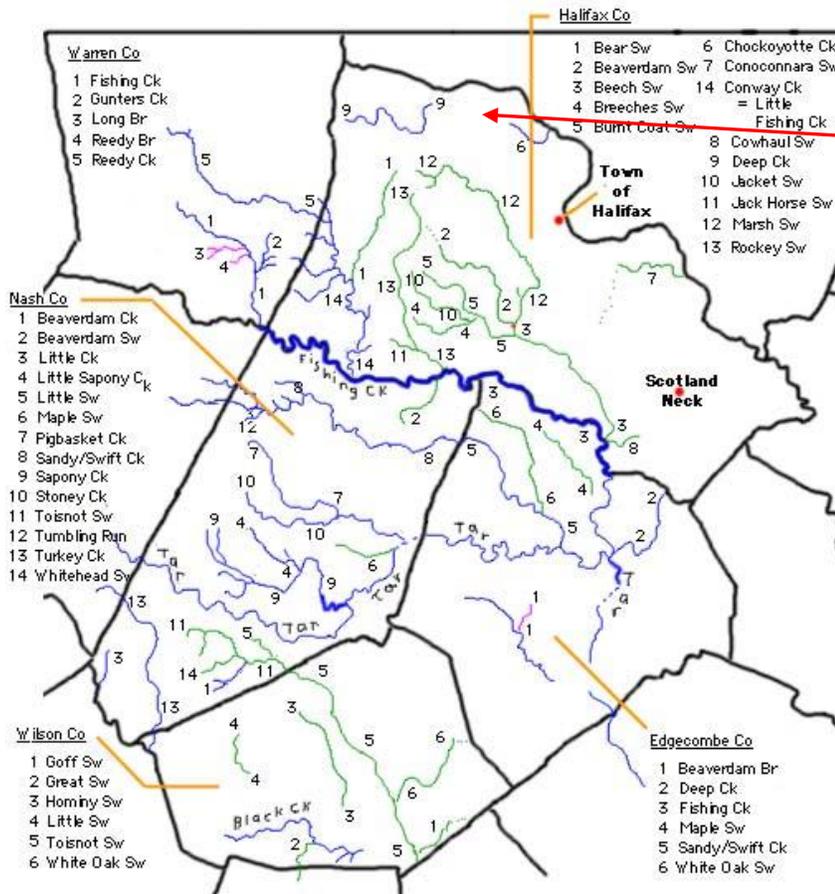
Chapter 2: Our Redding Family Moves to North Carolina

Map of Virginia and North Carolina

Reddings from 1743 -1804

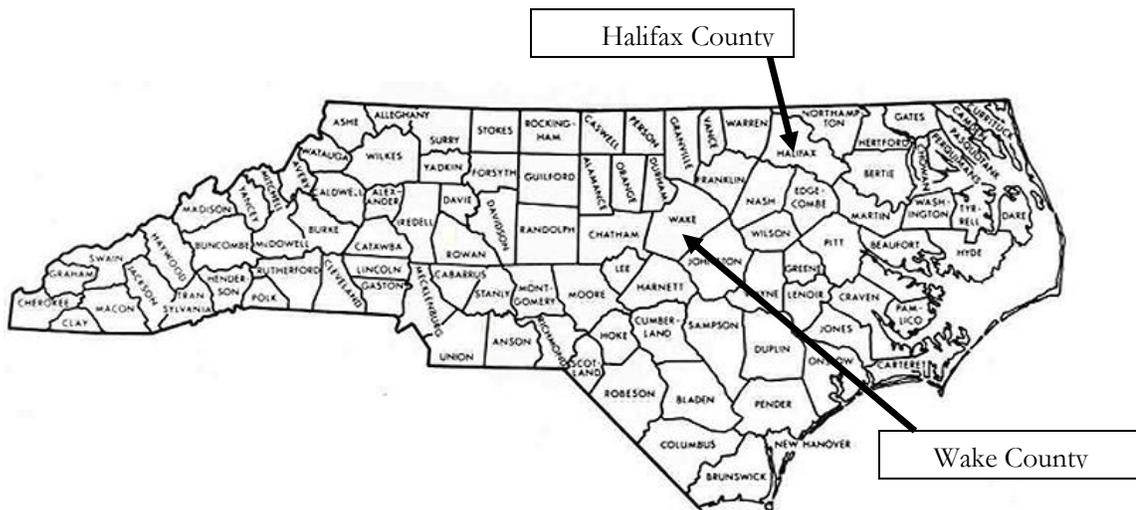


Map of Francis Redding in Halifax County, North Carolina 1758-1779

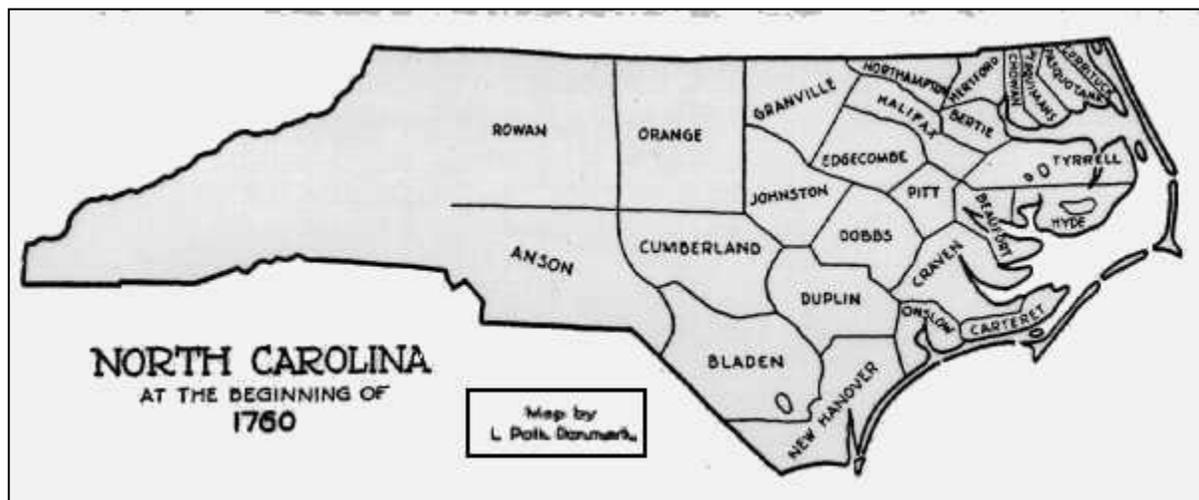


Francis Redding
on Chockoyotte
Ck, Deep Ck,
South of Roanoke
River

Map of North Carolina Counties Today



Edgecombe and Halifax Counties, North Carolina



The northernmost part of Halifax County, North Carolina, is just six miles from the Virginia state border. About 60 miles long and twenty wide, it is roughly triangular in shape and contains 681 square miles. Starting at its uppermost point and continuing clockwise, it is bounded on the north and east by the Roanoke River, by a diagonal line running NE-SW it shares with Martin County, then by Fishing Creek on the south, and finally by a roughly north-south line shared with Warren County on the west.

Halifax County, created in 1758 from Edgecombe County, was named for George Montagu, second Earl of Halifax, president of the Board of Trade and Plantations. Edgecombe had earlier been formed from Bertie County, which in turn had once been the western extension of Chowan Precinct (west of the Chowan River), and even earlier an undefined part of the original Albemarle County (which no longer exists). The county seat, also named Halifax (town) had been established in 1757 on the Roanoke River. Located on the fall line of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, the county has an interesting mixture of flat and hilly terrain.

The earliest settlers in this area are found in the records of Albemarle County. In 1722 the Bertie precinct was formed, and ten years later efforts began to create Edgecombe County out of it. Two Episcopal Church parishes existed: St. Mary's south of Fishing Creek, and Edgecombe Parish north of it. The latter is the geographic area which came to be known as Halifax County, North Carolina.

Modern-day cities and towns include Roanoke Rapids, Weldon, Littleton, Enfield, Halifax (the present county seat), and Scotland Neck. Enfield was the seat of the judicial district including Northampton, Granville, and Edgecombe County, before Halifax was carved out of it.

Southward from Virginia, and westward from the coastal region, migration patterns aided in the early settlement of Halifax County, North Carolina. Many families established themselves and remained there, while multitudes passed through on their way to other counties and states. Toward the latter part of the 17th century, the unsettled lands of North Carolina had been opened for homesteaders. After the Tuscarora Rebellion was crushed in 1712, there was a rush to secure choice plantation sites, especially by younger sons of wealthy families, who by the law of primogeniture inherited no share in their fathers' estates. The first settlers made their homes on the Roanoke River, Conoconara Swamp, and Quanky Creek about 1723. In 1722, Lord Nairn and a group of Scots settled on the Cypress Swamp in the area around Scotland Neck. Land grants of the Province of North Carolina and the Granville District of North Carolina, compiled in works by Margaret M. Hofmann, document ownership from the middle-seventeenth through the late eighteenth century in Halifax County, North Carolina, and surrounding areas.

The Halifax Resolves of April 12, 1776, enabled county residents to boast of being "First in Freedom." Just over two months later the Continental Congress acted on this resolution by the Province of North Carolina. The state government was organized in the town of Halifax in November of that eventful year, and most sessions of the North Carolina General Assembly met here until 1782.

In coastal Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the Carolinas, a swamp or marsh can be called a *pocosin* [emphasis on second syllable] or a *dismal*, the second term illustrated in the name of the Dismal Swamp on the border of North Carolina and Virginia. The word *pocosin* possibly comes from Virginia Algonquian. The early settlers used *pocosin* as a designation for low swampy ground, especially a wooded swamp.

An interesting bit of history is that the Baptists were among the early settlers in North Carolina. According to the *History of North Carolina Baptists* by Paschal, the first organized Baptist congregation was formed in 1727, but Baptists were already there. Baptist preachers carried the gospel to the first settlers south and west of the Roanoke River, where we find the first Reddings in our line. We don't know yet that these Reddings were Baptists, but they were related to descendants of Rev. Robert Norden, the Baptist preacher, and our ancestor, James Redding, born in 1760, married Susannah Crocker, who was from a family of Baptist preacher/farmers. Also, James's brother, Randolph, was later a Baptist preacher in Alabama.

Some of the earliest Primitive Baptist Churches organized in North Carolina, according to Hassell's Church History, included the following: Shiloh, Pasquotank Co. (1729); Meherrin, Hertford Co. (1735); Kehukee, Halifax Co. (1742); Sandy Run, Bertie Co. (1750); Daniel's (Fishing Creek), Halifax Co. (1755); Falls of Tar River, Nash Co. (1757); Red Banks, Pitt Co. (1758); Rocky Swamp, Halifax Co. (1774).

In the *Granville District of North Carolina, 1748-1763, Volume II, Abstract of Land Grants*, compiled by Margaret M. Hofman, 1987, we find Francis and other Reddings (by various spellings) in Halifax County, North Carolina. The numbers and page references that precede each entry are from the original archive records. The "OR" stands for Original Record; the "SCC" is for Sworn Chain Carrier, and the "SCB" for Sworn Chain Bearer. A sworn chain carrier was selected as an assistant in the legal survey because of his knowledge of existing survey lines. He was usually a teenage son of an adjoining landowner. The chain carrier was an assistant to the surveyor and moved the surveying chain from one location to another under the surveyor's direction. This was a position of some responsibility, and the chain carriers took an oath as "sworn chain carriers" that they would do their job properly.

Our Reddings in Halifax County, North Carolina

The last record found of Francis Redding in Virginia was a land record in 1751. We first find a Fran Reden in Halifax County, North Carolina, in 1758, when he was a chain carriers for a survey of 552 acres for Henry Chambles who entered the land in his name in 1760 as part of a Granville Grant. This 552 acres, however, was soon in the possession of Francis Redding, who sold half of it (277 acres) to Melchisedeck Nordon (believed to be Francis's son-in-law, married to Elizabeth) in 1761, half of the remainder (138 acres) to Mathew Garguiris in 1762, and last portion (138 acres) to John Jolly in 1763. Francis Redding's relationship to Henry Chambles and the means by which Francis acquired this land is not known.

In 1764, a year after selling the last of the Chambles land, a Francis Redding (thought to be the son of Francis I who sold the Chambles property) purchased 135 acres on the Roanoke River in Halifax County. The sale was witnessed by Francis Redding, Sr. and W. Redding. Also in 1764, a William Redding sold land in Halifax County that he had purchased in 1745. If this William is a brother of Francis I, and a witness to Francis II's purchase, then he had been in North Carolina for many years before Francis.

At this point, we have no record of Francis I purchasing additional land after selling the Chambliss property, and we have Francis II holding 135 acres. But in 1775, Francis II and wife, Mary, sold 200 acres on the Roanoke River in Halifax County, and in 1780 he sold another 150 acres on the Roanoke River in Halifax

County. Somehow he had accumulated 350 acres, while we have found a purchase for only 135 acres. By 1780, Francis II had removed to Wake County, North Carolina. It is possible that Francis I had died in Halifax County after 1764 when he witnessed his son's purchase of the 135 acres.

In 1758, the year that Halifax County was formed from Edgecombe, Fran Reden and John Reden were chain carriers for a survey in Halifax County, North Carolina, on the south side of Cane Quarter Creek near Carter's line. This land (552 acres) was entered as owned by Henry Chambles in 1760, as part of a Granville grant to Chambles. But the acreage equals that sold by Francis Redding in 1761-62. Henry Chambliss (various spellings) was born in 1734 and married Jean Woodruff. See the Woodruff family in the 1751 Albemarle Parish records that included Francis Redding.

In 1759, Francis Redding owned land next to David Rozar.

February 20, 1761: John Redden of Halifax County, North Carolina, sold 200 acres to William Cock (or Cook) of Sussex County, Virginia, for 10 pounds current money of Virginia.

December 7, 1761: Francis Redding sold to Melchesedeck Nordon, 277 ac Cane Quarter Creek in Halifax County, NC. This is half the land surveyed for Henry Chambles. Nordon was thought to be the husband of Francis's daughter Elizabeth. Drury King and Mary King witnessed. Francis Redding (died 1804) was administrator of Drury King's estate in Wake County in 1787.

In 1762, Francis Redding was living on land adjoining that of Abraham Johnston, which also bordered Great Creek (now called Deep Creek, which runs from near current Littleton into what is now Roanoke Rapids Lake), Green Emrey, Carter's corner, Gargass corner, and Robert Williams, which must be the same location as the 1758 survey.

August 19, 1762: Francis Redding sold to Mathew Garguiris, 138 ac, Oak, black jack, Masson's corner, hickory tree, red oak. This is a quarter of the land surveyed for Henry Chambles.

1763. Robert Seayres of Halifax County in an entry dated 21 Jan 1763, had 700 acres in Halifax County, joining George Norwood, Evin Ragland, chouct [Chockoyotte], and Francis Redden /s/ Robert Searyes (who signed with a mark) Wit: Jno Linton.

March 1763: Francis Redding sold to John Jolly 138 ac, Mathew Garguiris's corner, hickory, Carter's line. This is the last quarter of the land surveyed for Henry Chambles.

In 1764, William Redding of Halifax County, North Carolina, sold land purchased in 1745 from John Ballard to Joseph Harrel. Witnesses were John Price and Joseph and John Hooks. On February 10, 1764, Francis Redding [Francis II] bought from John Rozar 135 acres on the south side of the Roanoke River with Francis Redding, Sr. [Francis I] and W. Redding witnessing.

In February of 1764, Francis Redding purchased 135 acres on the Roanoke River in Halifax County, North Carolina, from John Rozar (son of David). Witnesses were Francis Redding, Sr. and **W. Redding**. In 1775, Francis Redding and his wife, Mary of Halifax County, North Carolina, sold 200 acres in Halifax County on the south side of the Roanoke River to Daniel Vaux of Bute County.

John Rozar acquires land in 1754: Edgecombe Co., NC, DB 2, p. 300, 14 Nov 1754: "Thomas Bradford Sr. and Mary his wife of Northampton Co. to John Rozar of Edge. Co. £100. 135 acres on south side of Roanoke river joining Ogilbie, Chekeott creek, Danbe and the sd Rozar; all houses, etc. Wit: David Rozar, Mary Norwood, Mary Bradford. Aug Ct. 1755." This is same 135 acres as

below, purchased by Francis Redding.

John Rozar sells to Francis Redding in 1764: Halifax Co., NC, DB 9, p. 58, 10 Feb 1764: “John Rozar of Sussex Co., VA, to Francis Reding (Redden) of Halifax Co. £100. 135 acres on south side of Roanoke River, joining Ogilvie, Chockiat Creek, Dawsey. Wit: Francis Reding Sr., W. Reding. Apr Ct 1764.”

This is the earliest evidence that there were two Francis Reddings of legal age by 1764, and they are connected to a W. (William) Redding. We are not sure of the connection to John Reden, the 1758 chair carrier. Our assumption is that Francis Redding, Sr., is the one we refer to as Francis I (born 1700-1715), and that Francis Redding is the one we later call Francis, Sr. [Francis II](born 1730-1740), whose son Francis, Jr., was born about 1755, the brother of our ancestor, James Redding (born about 1760), as per the 1804 Wake County will of Francis Redding, Sr. In 1764, then, Francis I (here Francis, Sr.) would be 49 to 64 years old; and Francis II (Francis, here) would be 24 to 34 years old, and would be 64 to 74 at the time of his death in 1804.

[A land sale by Jesse Embry (see Green Emrey in 1762) to Nathaniel Hill, Jr. in Wake County in 1785 referred to the tract as part of a Granville grant to William Redin bearing the date of January 1, 1763. This land is located in Johnston County, from which Wake County was formed in 1770. A William Redding was a constable in Johnston County in 1764. This is the same area where Francis Redding was on tax list in Wake County in 1793 neighboring Nathaniel Hill. If William Redding received a Granville grant in the Panther Creek area of what is now Wake County but was then Johnston County in 1763, did he move there? This is where Francis Redding moved by 1780. Is this the father of William C., for whom Francis was guardian in 1768? Did Francis inherit this land from William? Which William is this? Is there any connection to John Ballard’s Craven/Johnston/Dobbs property?] But see also a Francis Reading in Johnston County census in 1790, when our two Francis Reddings appear in Wake.

October Court 1764, Halifax. entry (3rd down) looks like Edward Telfair vs ---- ncis Redding. Edward Telfair, born in 1735 in Scotland, was later a member of the Continental Congress and Governor of Georgia (1786-1793), where a county was named for him. He was a signer of the Articles of Confederation.

In November of 1768, Francis Reding, William Reding, and Sanders Reding signed a letter to the Governor of North Carolina appealing for tax relief. The letter (from Colonial Records of North Carolina) read:

To his Excellency William Tryon Esqr Govr of North Carolina, the members of his Majesties Counsel and the House of Burgesses Now mett at Newbern:

This Petition of the Inhabitance of the County of Halifax humbly Sheweth that the grait Scarcity of Money laye Us Under Very grait hardships. In so much as not to be able to Pay Our Taxes which has been the Real Cause of all the Disturbance that leatly Hapned We therefore Pray that Your Excellency, And Other Branches of the Legislative body would take into Your Mature Consideratione the Deplorable State of the Province And either grant Us An Act of Assembly to make more money or An Act to pay our Taxes in Commodities which would Enable Us to Chearfully pay as Usenal; And Your Petitioners as in Duty Bound will Ever Pay.

Henry Cotes
John Brown
Jas Dier
John Powell
William Gardner
Thomas Pace
James Bloyse

Solomon Powell
Frances Reding
Michel Meley
John Carpenter
Thomas Tayler
James Haywood
Jonathan Carpenter

Wm Clemonds
Henry Cavares
Wm Powell Senr
Peter Smith
John Pots
George Zollycoffer
Williamson Haile

William Powell
Robt Carstarphen
Daniel Crawley
William Trent
George Powell
John Gray
George Pace
John Myrick
John Hubbard
Absolum Isles
William Hubbard
Reubin Rozar
Henry Robinson
Wm Guthrie

Wm Reding
Sanders Reding
Jos Taler
Edmund Irby
Thoms Williams
Israel Parsball
Thos Taler
Thos Irby
Thos Gardner
Edwd Luntsford
Jos Garland
John Winter
Jos Winter
Edwd Crossland
William Rose

Aris Stipus Haile
John Basford
John Studivan
John Hargrove
John Jones
Richard Clayton
William Lovell
Wm Clark
Ephraim Knight
Jesse Pope
Charles Sanders
Jho Mills Junr
James Stevens
Wm Humphreys

The “Disturbance” mentioned in the petition no doubt referred to the Regulators, a vigilance association officially formed in 1768 after four years of disturbances by scattered groups of frontiersmen. The Regulators were especially prominent in Halifax County. The backcountry Carolinians had grown increasingly resentful of their coastal cousins and complained about excessive taxation, dishonest officials, and exorbitant fees. By 1771, the Regulators could assemble a militia of 2,000 men, causing concern by the Governor. On May 16, 1771, Governor Tryon led troops against the Regulators at the Battle of Alamance, killing several Regulators and executing more. Many of the Regulators fled to Tennessee at this time, and others sided with the Loyalists because of their anger at the coastal Carolinians who were prominent in the American Revolution.

According to a book on the Redding family by Billie Redding Lewis, a William Redding died in Halifax County, North Carolina, before 1768, leaving a will in which he named his son John (born 1757), son Joseph, son William C. (born 1750), daughter Sarah (married Ambrose Martin), and grandson Nathaniel (probably born in 1765 and the son of another son of William’s, not named). Both John and William C. later also had sons named Nathaniel. In 1768, William C. was apprenticed to William Ross, bricklayer, by **Francis Redding**. William C. married Martha (Patsy) Martin, daughter of Ambrose Martin and, according to some records, William C.’s sister Sarah. This seems unlikely, so perhaps Patsy was his cousin. Most of these Reddings, including William C. and John, moved to Wilkes County, North Carolina about 1780. About the same time, Francis Redding and his sons, Francis Redding, Jr. and James Redding, moved to Wake County.

[This will of William Redding is referred to in the book on the Redding family by Billie Redding Lewis. Does the will exist, since no date is given? Was it probated in Halifax County, North Carolina? We have not found it. Since Francis Redding was guardian of William C., son of William, in the apprenticeship in 1768, could Francis have been a brother or son of William who had died? Why was Francis not mentioned in William’s will? Could this be the William who received the Granville grant in Johnston/Wake in 1763? Did he move there rather than dying?]

The Children of William Redding who died before 1768, according to Billie Redding Lewis, were:

1. Son William C. (sometimes known as William, Jr.), born November 1, 1750, married Martha “Patsy” Martin in Halifax County, North Carolina, on November 10, 1759, and moved to Wilkes County, North Carolina, about 1780.

Children:

- a. John, b 10 MAY 1777 married Mary Polly Brown
- b. Ambrose, b 26 MAR 1779

- c. Sarah "Sally" b 2 MAR 1782 married Peter Reeves
 - d. William J. b 11 JUL 1784 married Delphia Brown
 - e. Elizabeth b 30 SEP 1787 married Elisha Brown
 - f. Nathan b 30 JUL 1789/90 married Sarah Brown
 - g. Martha "Patty" b ? married James Maberry/Maybery
 - h. Rebecca b 3 SEP 1787 married Ambrose Martin [??]
 - i. James b 1795/99 married Mary "Peggy" Woodward
 - j. Nancy b 6 MAR 1782 married Henry Randolph Wilborn
2. Son John born 1757 (also known as Jonathan, Revolutionary War veteran, later petitioned for pension while residing in Wilkes County; moved to Rush County, Indiana, separated from wife, who remained in Indiana with her children while John returned to Wilkes County, North Carolina, where he received a pension for war service and later died

Children:

- a. Patsy
 - b. Sally
 - c. Mary
 - d. Nathaniel
3. Son Joseph
4. Daughter Sarah (married Ambrose Martin). A Martin family history shows Ambrose born in Caroline County, Virginia in 1730, married Sarah Redding (born 1736 in Halifax [this would be about 20 years before Francis Redding appeared in Halifax] and died in 1793 in Wilkes County, North Carolina) and died in Halifax County in 1776. Their children were: Thomas, Henry, Ann, Martha (Patsy), and John. Martha was born in 1759 in Halifax County and married William C. Redding. If the Billie Redding Lewis account is correct, then Martha married her uncle. But her mother Sarah was 14 years older than her brother William, and 21 years older than John. Most likely this Sarah Redding was not a daughter of William.
5. Grandson Nathaniel (or Nathan), probably born about 1765. It appears that both William C. and John had sons named Nathaniel or Nathan. This Nathaniel is most likely the son of another son of William, unknown. A Nathan appears in the Wake County tax list in 1789 (Captain Temple's district), in the Cumberland County census in 1790 and 1800, and in Rutherford County, Tennessee in 1806 and Wilson County in 1820.
- a. Nathan son of John (above) married Grace Jackson in Wilkes County, North Carolina in 1813 and Lucy Pinix before 1850.
 - b. Nathan son of William C. (above), born 1789, married Sarah Brown, who was heir along with her brothers John and William, to William Brown, who died in 1815.

John Redding, son of William and brother of William C., served in the Revolutionary War as a private in the North Carolina line. When he later petitioned for a pension (beginning about 1810; including a petition from Franklin County, Tennessee in 1824; another from Rush County, Indiana in 1831; granted in Wilkes County in 1832), his appeal was contested because the spelling of his name on his military records varied from that on other records. John Redding then petitioned to prove that he was indeed the John Redding who had served in the War. His petition was submitted and signed on February 22, 1832 by James Martin, Justice of the County. It reads:

“I also send you the indenture of William Redding, the brother of John Redding, with a family record on the back of it, that shows conclusively the name of Redding has been written according to the way each writer thought it ought to be spelt. The indenture was in the possession of John Redding, Junr, son of William Redding the apprentice. James Martin.”

The indenture enclosed in John Redding’s petition reads: *“This indenture made this 26 day of Feb. in the year of Our Lord One thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Eight; Witnesseth that **Francis Reding** Doth put and binde William Reding, Apprentice to William Ross Bricklayer, to learn his Art, Mistery, _____ with him After The Manner of an Apprentice to Serve from the day of Date hereof Until the same William Reding shall attaine to the Age of Twenty One Years.”*

On the back of the indenture was recorded the following:

William Reding Junr was born Nover the 1 day 1750

Patty Martin was Born November 10 day 1759 [William C.’s wife]

John Readin was born March the 26 day 1779 [son of William and Patty who had the family documents]

Sary Reading was born March the 2 day 1782 [daughter of William and Patty]

Nathan Reading was borne July the 30 day of 1789 [son of William and Patty]

[Petition and indenture provided by Marjorie Christiansen.]

We suspect that when William Redding died about 1768 (or had moved to claim Granville Grant in Johnston County), Francis Redding I (possibly William’s brother) assumed responsibility for the minor children, including William C. (also referred to as William, Jr.). He indentured William C. to apprentice with a bricklayer that year. One oddity is that the petition testimony of James Martin describes John Redding, Junior as the son of William. Why would he be a junior if his father’s name was William? Possibly it was to distinguish him from the John Redding who was petitioning for a pension.

ABSTRACT of the ARMY ACCOUNTS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA LINE - settled by the commissioners at Halifax from the 1st September, 1784, to the 1st Feby, 1785 and at Warrenton in the year 1786, designating by whom the claims were receipted for respectively.

39 Hezekiah Rice, Capt. Ab. Thomas

99 James Rainey do

101 Peter Rainey, Lt. do

103 John Reddin do

In 1775, Francis Reding and his wife, Mary, of Halifax County, North Carolina, sold 200 acres in Halifax County on the south side of the Roanoke River to Daniel Vaux of Bute County. This may be Francis II who moved to Wake County a few years later.

1778: Deed Book 14, Halifax County; #659-(35) Ephraim Merritt of Halifax Co. to James Shaw of same. 10 Apr 1778. 167 pounds shillings 8 pence proclamation money. 220 acres, joining Chokeott Creek, John Muston, Woolf Trap Branch. Ephraim Merritt. Wit: **Francis Redding**, William Powell. Aug Ct 1778. CC: Ben McCulloch. This may be Francis I, still in Halifax County.

In 1779, a land sale from Richard Head of Wake County to William Gill, Jr. of Granville County was described as on the Roanoke River joining **Francis Redding**, James Hockerday, Mitchel, and John Thompson. Again, we assume this is Francis I, still in Halifax County.

Francis Redding II and III (Senior and Junior), moved to Wake County in 1779 or early 1780, selling the last of their Halifax County land in May of 1780, and buying 300 acres in Wake County the same month.

On May 17, 1780, Francis Redding, Senior and Junior, both of Wake County, sold 150 acres to James Hockaday in Halifax County on the south side of the Moratuck (Roanoke) River. This could be Francis I and

Francis II, or Francis II and Francis III. Francis I is believed to have died about this time, and Francis II and Francis III migrated to Wake County.

Assumed Children of Francis Redding I

Our hypothesis is that Francis Redding, born between 1700 and 1715, in records in Surry/Sussex County, Virginia from 1743-1751, moved to Halifax County, North Carolina, about 1758, and was the father of:

Francis Redding (born about 1730 and died in 1804 in Wake County, North Carolina) our proved ancestor. See more on this Francis later.

Saunders (or Sanders) Redding who was listed in a petition from Halifax County, North Carolina, in 1768 along with William Redding and Francis Redding, was later in Wake County, North Carolina, and then in Lancaster County, South Carolina.

Sanders Redding was in Johnston County (adjacent to Wake), North Carolina, records in 1764, but signed the petition in Halifax County in 1768.

On March 2, 1778, an entry in the Wake County records shows a warrant issued to John Hinton for 640 acres on the north side of the Neuse River, including improvements "where Saunders Readin now lives." Other entries suggest this was on Beaverdam Creek.

On October 9, 1783, Sanders Redding married Hester Baucom in Wake County; bondsmen were Hugh Eittor and William Jones.

Sanders Redding was a bondsman for the 1786 wedding of Melchizedek Nordan's daughter Mary Nordan to Nowell [Noel?] Johnston County, North Carolina. Johnston County borders Wake County.

In 1790, Saunders Reading was in Camden District, South Carolina. In 1810 a Sanders Reading was in Lancaster, South Carolina. Francis Redding, probable son of Sanders, enlisted in the army in Lancaster, South Carolina, on August 9, 1814, at age 20. We believe this is the Francis Redding later found in Arkansas, where he claimed bounty land for his service.

Elizabeth Redding, born about 1732, married Melchizedek Nordan in 1757. Melchizedek Nordan purchased land on Cane Quarter Creek in Halifax County, North Carolina, from Francis Redding on December 7, 1761. Melchizedek was the son of Robert Nordan, son of Francis Nordan, son of the Rev. Robert Nordan (born 1650 in East Sussex, England).

[xxxx see Melchizedek in Wake or Johnston County]

Rev. Robert Norden was born about 1650, probably in East Sussex, England. At the time he was called to Virginia he was residing at Warbleton, Sussex England. His call to Virginia was a "messenger." He died in 1725.

In 1714, a small group of early Baptists in Virginia petitioned the Baptist Convention in England for a minister. Robert Norden was chosen as the first Baptist minister in Virginia and the first Baptist minister sent from England to the colonies. He traveled to Virginia in 1714 with the Matthew Marks family and lived on the Marks plantation in the county of Isle of Wight, Virginia roughly near Richmond on the south side of the James River and there established a small congregation at a place called Burleigh which was probably near the Marks plantation. The church at Burleigh was in Isle of

Wight County, Virginia, on the Mill Swamp road and closest town was Smithfield There is still a Baptist church on this site.

When Matthew Marks died in 1719, he willed the use of his plantation to Norden until his death. Robert Norden built up several churches in the Richmond area, particularly a church in Surry and the Burleigh church. The congregation continued until 1742 when many emigrated to Kehukee, in Halifax County, North Carolina, and formed the first Baptist Association in South Carolina.

The information about these pioneers was gleaned from the Angus Library of Regent's Park College in Oxford and recorded in *Heritage Column for August 18, 2005* by Fred Anderson. Official permission was required to follow a different religion and eventually they got permission to have a preacher. But Robert Norden was required to appear in court and swear allegiance to the King of England.

"I, Robert Norden do sincerely promise and Solemnly Declare before God and the World that I will be true and faithful to his Majesty King George, and I do Solemnly promise and Declare, that I do from my heart abhor, detest and renounce as Impious and Hereticall that Damnable Doctrine and Position that Princes Excommunicated or Deprived by the Pope or any Authority of the See of Rome may be deposed or Murthered by their subjects or any other whatsoever, and I do Declare that no foreign Prince, Person, Prelate, State or Potentate hath or ought to have any power, Jurisdiction Superiority, Prebeminence or Authority, Ecclesiasticall or Spiritual withen his Realm.

"I Robert Norden Profess faith in God the Father and in Jesus Christ his Eternal Son, the true God and in the Holy Spirit, one God Blessed for ever more, and I do acknowledge the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine Inspiration." Robert Norden [Source :Att a Court held for the County of Prince George on Tuesday the fourteenth of June Anno Dom. 1715.]

William Redding, father of William C. (born 1750). Francis Redding was guardian to William C. in 1768 in Halifax County, North Carolina, with William C.'s father assumed dead (or relocated) at that time. The children of William Redding migrated to Wilkes County, North Carolina, about 1786.

John Redding, the chain carrier in 1758 who was a resident of Halifax County, North Carolina, selling 200 acres in 1761.

Our Reddings in Wake County, North Carolina



In October of 1764, a William Redin was named constable in the room of James Olive in Johnston County, North Carolina. Wake County was formed in 1771 from Johnston, Cumberland, and Orange. In 1784, a William Riding was on the early census list in Johnston County.

On **March 2, 1778**, an entry in the Wake County records shows a warrant issued to John Hinton for 640 acres on the north side of the Neuse River, including improvements “where Saunders Readin now lives.” Other entries suggest this was on Beaverdam Creek.

On February 24, 1780, a Francis Redden married Mary Hardcassell in Wake County; James Hardcassell was the bondsman. This Francis signed with a mark, while Francis, Sr. and Jr. both signed with signatures in other documents. This Francis may not be one of our line. Another possibility is that this is Francis, Sr. [Francis II], whose first wife, also named Mary, had died. This would explain his younger children in the household at his death in 1804. James Hardcastle is listed in October of 1778 as holding land on Neuse River. Mary Hardcassell was probably the sister of James, who was born in 1753, and both the children of William.

On May 2, 1780, Francis Redding, Sr. [Francis II] purchased from James Patterson of Wake County, for 2,000 pounds current money a tract of 320 acres on the west side of Panther Creek and on both sides of Poplar Creek adjoining James Watson, Benton and John Hinton. Witnesses: Francis Redding, Jr. [Francis III], Elizabeth Patterson. The deed was also signed by Elizabeth Patterson.

On **May 17, 1780**, Francis Redding, Senior and Junior [II and III], both of Wake County, sold 150 acres to James Hockaday in Halifax County on the south side of the Moratuck (Roanoke) River.

Wake County June 1780 (Court Entry 149): Ordered that Francis Redding be Constable in Captain Robensons district in the room of Jacob Smith (issd).

Poplar Creek is just a few miles east of current Raleigh, running north and south from Knightdale toward Clayton and on into current Johnston County to Smithfield. Panther Creek is just a few miles west of current Raleigh, running northwest to southeast.

September 1782 (Court Entry 220A): A deed from Francis Reading & wife to John Brown was in Open Court Acknowledged & Ordered to be Registered.

March 1783 (Court Entry 265): Francis Redding, Constable in John Hinton, Justice, received the tax list for Capt. Mials’s District.

September 1783 (Court Entry 284—crossed out entry): ... Ordered that Frans. Redding ... be summoned to attend this court

September 1783 (Court Entry 285): Ordered that ... Francis Redding ... be allowed the sum of Twenty Shillings each for Summoning the Inhabitants of their respective Districts to give in Lists of their Taxable property & that the same be paid by the Sheriff out of the County tax.

On October 9, 1783, Sanders Redding married Hester Baucom in Wake County; bondsmen were Hugh Eittor and William Jones. [Sanders’ relationship not proved but is thought to be the brother of Francis II, and he is probably the Sanders in Halifax with William and Francis in 1768 and in Johnston County records in 1764. In 1790, Saunders Reading was in Camden District, South Carolina. In 1810 a Sanders Reading was in Lancaster, South Carolina.]

On January 26, 1784, Francis Redding, Sr. [Francis II] and Francis Redding [Francis III] were witnesses to sale of 200 acres to James Gilbert by Edward Earp (probably husband of Francis, Sr.’s daughter Selah Earp).

Tract described as “lying on the east side of Poplar Creek adjoining Francis Reddin, Senr., John Brown, and [James] Watson.

On December 19, 1785, Recorded in Wake County: **Francis Redding, Sr.** and John Roberson witnessed the sale of land from Jacob Ellis to William Knight in Wake County, adjoining Ellis and Roberson.

April 3, 1786: Francis Redding purchased land in Wake from James Patterson. See previous purchase from Patterson in 1780.

On April 17, 1787, the estate of Drury King was sold in Wake County, and **Francis Redding** was named the administrator. Accounts were settled over the next 10 years, and purchases were made by Francis Redding, Francis Redding, Jr., James Redding, Henry Temple, Francis King, and Wright Hilliard.

1789, Wake County insolvents -- John Hinton, collector in Capt. Temple’s District – Nathan Reding, 1 poll. See Nathan or Nathaniel, grandson of William in Halifax County will.

September 1790 (Court Entry 439): Ordered that Hubbard Williams be overseer of the Road from Rogers Cross Road leading Lewisburg and that the following hands work on said Road under him towit ... **Francis Redding**.

September 1790 (Court Entry 445): Insolvents allowed John Hinton Collector in Capt. Temple’s District for 1789 ...Nathan Reding 1 poll ...

December 1790 (Court Entry 476): Amos Horton vs. William Martin: Original Attachment. **Francis Redding** being Summoned as a Garnishee being first sworn declares he has in his hands the property of Drury King decd. The sum of L125...9...11 which is subject to this attachment.

In the 1790 census, James Redding and two Francis Reddings were in Wake County, North Carolina. This was James Redding our ancestor, who died in Iowa in 1839, and one Francis his brother and the other his father. The James Redding household in 1790 included two males over 16, one male under 16, and two females. This is not a perfect fit with our James, but close. One male over 16 is James (he would be about 30), and the other might be an elderly parent living with the family. The one male under 16 would be James, Jr., and the two females would be James’s wife (Susannah Crocker, daughter of Jacob Crocker, the elder) and daughter, Nancy. [Or perhaps Nancy isn’t born yet and the extra male and female are an older couple. Could it be Jacob Crocker and wife, parents of Susannah?]

In one of the Francis Redding households we find one male over 16, three males under 16 (possibly Allen, Samuel, Randolph), and four females (possibly wife Mary and daughters Mary, Levina and Elizabeth). This, then, would be Francis, Sr. with older sons James and Francis, Jr. and daughter Selah (Earp) out of the household. If so, Francis Redding, Sr. would be about 50 years old. We know that Selah was married and had a child by 1788.

In the other household we find one male over 16, four males under 16, and one female. This would most likely be Francis, Jr. In between the two Francis Reddings in the handwritten census records is a Francis King with one male over 16, two males under 16, and three females. Considering that the Reddings appeared in the estate records of Drury King (and were in parish records associated with the King family in Virginia in the 1750s), there may be a connection between these two families. Or perhaps they were simply neighbors.

June 1792 (Court Entry 588): A deed from Francis Redding to Rightman Hilliard was duly acknowledged in open court, and ordered to be Registered.

September 1791 (Court Entry 514): A deed from Lewis Seawell and wife to James Redding was duly proved in Open Court by the Oath of Francis Redding a Witness thereto and ordered to be Registered.

1792, Wake County insolvents – Capt. Willis Jones’ district – George Redding, 1 poll. Who was he?

September 1793 (Court Entry 97): Insolvents allowed Thomas Banks in his collections of the taxes in the Captains Districts in the County of Wake for the year 1792, towit ... George Redding one Poll.

In the 1793 Wake County Tax Lists, Robert Temple’s District included Francis Redding, 100 acres; Francis Redding, Sr., 169 acres; James Redding 100 acres. Also includes Drewry [Drury] King and Francis King, as well as Jacob Crocker (probably Jacob, Jr, brother-in-law of James Redding, as Jacob, Sr., his father-in-law, died in 1792. The Redding land is perhaps the 320 acres purchased by Francis, Sr. from James Patterson in May of 1780. James’s land was probably that purchased from Lewis Seawell in 1791.

In the 1794 Wake County Tax Lists, Captain Robert Temple’s District included: James Reddin, 100 acres; Francis Redding, 100 acres; Also includes: Drury King, Francis King, Nathaniel Hill. This Francis Redding is probably Francis, Sr., and Francis, Jr. has moved to Cumberland County where he appears in the 1800 census. If so, then Francis, Jr. may have sold the 100 acres he held in the tax list a year earlier. But a year earlier, Francis, Sr. had 169 acres and Francis 100. By 1802, Francis (we assume the senior) had 140 acres in Wake County and Daniel Redding, his son, had 72 ½ acres. In 1805 after Francis, Sr.’s death, the 140 acres was held by Robert [Allen] Redding (son of Francis) and the 72 ½ acres still in the hands of Daniel.

September 1795 (Court Entry 258): A deed from William Matthews to James Right was proved by the Oath of **Francis Redding** a witness thereto and Ordered to be Registered.

1795 Tax List in Wake County: Francis Redding, insolvent, in Captain Temple’s District. This could be Francis III who moved to Cumberland County about this time.

1797: Page 112 – Will Book D: Estate Sale in Wake County for Moses Benton, 27 May 1797; Buyers ... Francis Redding.

1798 ... #513-346: A deed from James Redding to John Williams provided by Francis Redding. A deed from Daniel Blewford to James Redding provided by Francis Redding.

1799 Tax List: Capt Phillips District, Wake County, Francis Redden (212.5 acres)

In 1800, one Francis Redding and Daniel Redding were in Wake County (living near each other) and another Francis Redding in Cumberland County (along with a Robert (age 26-44), a Nathan (age 26-44), and a William (over 45) all in separate households with families). In the 1800 census, the household of the Wake County Francis Redding included one male between 16 and 26 years of age; one male over 45; one female between 10 and 16; and one female over 45. The Wake County Francis is the elder of the two, born before 1755, and is probably Francis, Sr. [Francis II] with the youngest son (possibly Randolph) and youngest daughter (possibly Elizabeth) still at home. Francis, Sr. would now be about 70 years old. The 1800 household of the Cumberland County Francis included three males under 10; one male between 26 and 45; and one female between 26 and 45. This is no doubt Francis, Jr., [Francis III] who would be about 40. No James Redding is included in the 1800 census.

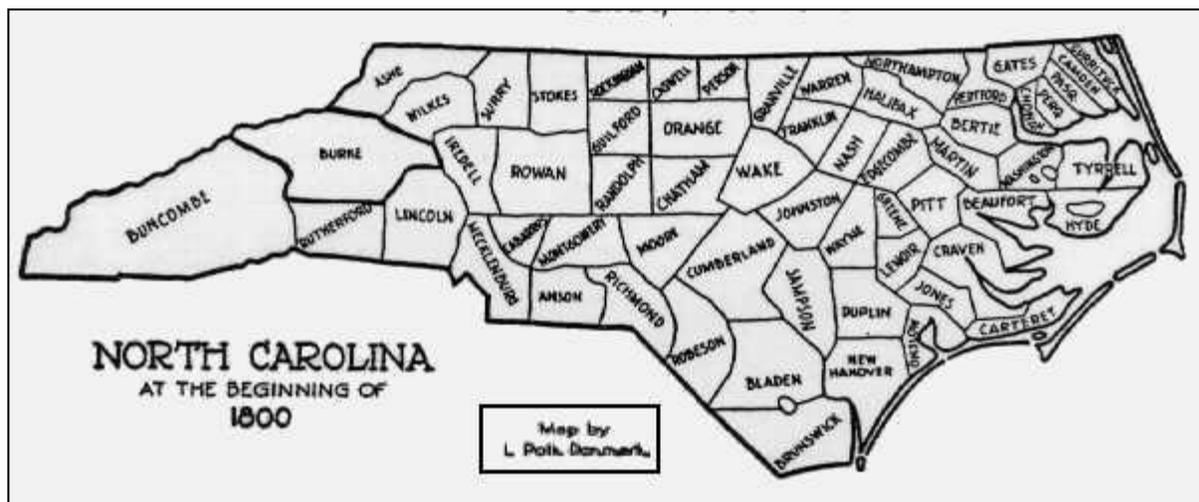
James must have left these parts sometime between 1798 and 1800, although his daughter, Nancy, later reported marrying in North Carolina in 1807 to John Young. Possibly James was simply missed in the census. In 1810 we find a James Redding in the census in the Pendleton District, South Carolina. No household information is available, so it is impossible to know if this is our James. By 1812, James Redding was in White County, Tennessee. Susannah Crocker’s [James’s wife] brothers, Bailey and Benjamin, left North Carolina

after 1810 and settled in Rutherford County, Tennessee. Jacob Crocker, Jr., another of Susannah's brothers, was preaching in Union County, South Carolina, just across the border from North Carolina, by 1799, according to church records, but was in the 1800 census in Franklin County, North Carolina. In 1804, James and Susannah sold land she had inherited from her father (which had remained in the custody of his wife until her demise), and in the same year James's father's will was probated. James received no land from his father in the will. Francis, Sr.'s land was left to his wife, Mary.

June 15, 1801 (Pg. 40, Wake County Deed Book R, page 92-93): 15 June 1801, Francis Phillips to Henry Temple West to Francis Reddings corner White Oak

On April 20, 1801, Francis Redding, Sr. signed a will in Wake County, North Carolina, witnessed by Charles Amos, Thomas Amos, and William Parish. The will was probated in November 1804 (Abstract of Wake County Will Book 6, p. 336). Francis left five shillings each to his daughters Selah Earp, Mary Newsom, and Elvena Shaw; five shillings each to his sons Francis, James, Daniel, and Allen (believed to be Robert A. Redding in land records); and furniture, livestock and 20 shillings to his daughter Elizabeth Redding. To his wife, Mary, he left "land and plantation whereon I now live with all property for her life or widowhood. At her death or marriage said land and plantation to be sold and money equally divided between [Robert] Allen Redding and Randol[ph] Redding; residue at her death to go to son Randol[ph] Redding." This is some indication that Allen, Randolph, and Elizabeth were children of Francis's second wife.

Nov 1802 ... #256-142: A deed from John Fort to Francis Redding was duly proved by the oath of Boling Dunna subscribing witness



In the 1802 Wake County Tax List, Captain Phillips's district includes: Francis Reding [Francis II] with 140 acres and Daniel Redding with 72 ½ acres. The total acreage of Francis and Daniel equals that held by Francis in the 1799 tax list. Also includes Judkins Barham, Nathaniel Perry, Francis King, Richard King, William Parrish, Benjamin Barham, William Barham.

Feb. 1803 ... #288-174: A deed from Francis Redding Senr. to Wrightmon Hilliard was proved by the Oath of John Brown a Witness thereto and ordered to be Registered.

April 4, 1803: Francis Redding grantor of land to Rightman Hillard in Wake.

April 4, 1803: Francis Redding purchased land from John Fort in Wake.

Either November Term 1804 or February Term 1805... #128-66: A deed from James Redding to Francis (sic) proven by Francis King.

On December 16, 1805: Robert Redding (Robert A., son of Francis) married Polly Richards (daughter of John Richards and Frances Perry) in Wake County with John Perry (uncle or grandfather?) as bondsman. Christopher Haynes was the surveyor in Halifax County for John Perry's property and for the Johnson property which bordered Francis Redding's. So it appears that the Perry family and Redding family migrated together from Halifax to Wake County. John Perry, if the same one, was bondsman in the marriage of Robert Redding to Polly Richards in Wake County in 1805; Polly's mother was Frances Perry Richards.

The 1805 Wake County Tax List, Buffaloe District includes: Daniel Redding, 72 ½ acres and Robert Redding, 140 acres (previously Francis's in 1802?). Also includes: William Barham, Benjamin Barham, Francis King, Richard King.

On March 24, 1810, Randolph Redding married Susanna Brown in Wake County with Burwell King as bondsman. This is the son of Francis, Sr. who died in 1804. Randolph was born about 1786, the youngest child of Francis, Sr. A Burrell King was in the 1790 census in Halifax County.

For 1810 and 1820, there is no Wake County census, and the Cumberland County Reddings included a Robert and a William, but no James or Francis. Another William (age 26-45) was in Martin County. Daniel seems to have remained in Wake County, as he was bondsman for the marriage of Sarah Barham to Gilbert Alford there in 1815, and he appears in the census in Wake County in Buffaloe District (formerly Hillsborough) in 1820 and 1830. In the 1810 census, there were clusters of Reddings in Randolph County, Wilkes County, and Orange County, North Carolina, and no Reddings yet in Tennessee. In 1820, Francis and Hardy Redding are next to each other in Warren County, Tennessee, and an Edmund Redding is also in the County. A Nathaniel Redding is in Wilson County.

1810 Tax List in Wake County: Reddin, David (722, 1), Buffaloe District; Reddin, Randle (70, 1), Buffaloe District; Redding, Elisha by Ferrell Ephraim (1), St. Maries.

Note that Elisha Hardcastle was father of James who bonded marriage of Mary to Francis Redding in 1780 and of a daughter Mary. William Hardcastle was Elisha's father and he also had a son James and wife Mary, also daughter Betty Adams. William died in 1777, will in Johnston County. Although not named in will, family record shows William with a daughter Mary, born 1754. This record has James born 1756 and Elisha 1752 and Elizabeth (Betsy) in 1750. Other children in this record not in will are John, Cosiah, and Baucom. James and John were in Johnston County Militia in Revolutionary War.

Aug 1815 ... #394-392: Ordered that Polly Denson a Child of Colour be bound out an apprentice to David Redding; she is now of the age of eight years next December, who entered into Bond according to law.

Nov 1815 ... #438-434: A deed from Francis Redding to Daniel Redding was in open Court duly proven by the Oath of Judkin Barham a Subscribing Witness thereto. This may be Francis III, returning from Cumberland County where he was in the census in 1800 but not in 1810.

August 6, 1820: Elisha Reddin marriage bond to Betsy Dowdy; North Carolina Marriage Bonds, 1741-1868 002216; Johnston County; 01 179; John Lee; Jno Sanders, Jr.

April 22, 1824: Robert A. Redding purchased land from John Brown in Wake.

October 4, 1825: Elisha Redding married Lucy Hinnant in Johnston County, NC on October 4, 1825; James Hillard bondsman, Ram Sanders witness.

January 24, 1826: Robert A. Redding purchased land from James Perry in Wake.

December 29, 1829: Robert A. Redding purchased land from Randolph Redding in Wake.

December 29, 1829: Randolph Redding grantor of land to Robert Redding in Wake.

In 1830, Robert A. Redding was in Cross Roads District in Wake County, North Carolina, between 30 and 40 years old, with a wife the same age and five girls and four boys under age 20.

January 9, 1838: Robert A. Redding purchased land from C. B. Young in Wake.

January 10, 1838: Robert A. Redding purchased land from J. B. Young in Wake.

December 21, 1839: Milton Redding purchased land from Lethan Norwood in Wake.

September 28, 1840: R. A. (Robert) Redding grantor of land to John Harris in Wake.

September 30, 1840: Elisha Redding grantor of land to Hardy Jones in Wake.

September 28, 1841: Milton Redding purchased land from Crawford Perry in Wake.

July 9, 1842: Daniel Redding purchased land from Judkins Barham in Wake.

May 14, 1842: Milton Redding grantor of land to W.H. McInvaill in Wake.

May 31, 1859: Amy Redding grantor of land to Solomon Higgins in Wake.

Children of Francis Redding, Sr. (Francis II, born about 1730)

Francis Redding, Jr. [Francis III] (b. ca. 1755)

Francis Redding, Jr. was in Wake County in the 1790 census and in the 1793 and 1794 tax lists there. He was in Cumberland County, North Carolina in 1800, but not in 1810.

On April 9, 1797, a land grant of 230 acres on Buies Creek in Cumberland County was issued for Francis Redding, with entry dates of 1790 and 1794.

In the 1820 census, a Francis Redding, possibly Francis, Jr. [Francis III], was in Warren County (formed from White in 1807), Tennessee census: 2 males under 10, 1 male 10 to 16, 1 male over 45, 2 females 16-26 and 1 female over 45; also in census were a Hardy Redding and a Redding Brown.

James Redding (b. ca. 1760)

See next chapter.

Daniel Redding (b. ca. 1765)

In the 1794 Wake County Tax Lists, Captain Robert Temple's District included: James Reddin, 100 acres; Francis Redding, 100 acres. This Francis Redding is probably Francis, Sr. [Francis II], and Francis, Jr. [Francis III] has moved to Cumberland County where he appears in the 1800 census. If so, then Francis, Jr. may have sold the 100 acres he held in the tax list a year earlier. But a year earlier, Francis, Sr. had 169 acres and Francis

100. By 1802, Francis (we assume the senior) had 140 acres in Wake County and Daniel Redding had 72 ½ acres, equaling the acreage held by Francis in the 1799 tax list. In 1805 after Francis, Sr.'s death, the 140 acres was held by Robert Redding and the 72 ½ acres still in the hands of Daniel.

In 1800, one Francis Redding and a Daniel Redding were in Wake County (living near each other) and another Francis Redding in Cumberland County (along with a Robert (age 26-44), a Nathan (age 26-44), and a William (over 45) all in separate households with families). In the 1800 census, the household of the Wake County Francis Redding included one male between 16 and 26 years of age; one male over 45; one female between 10 and 16; and one female over 45. The Wake County Francis is the elder of the two, born before 1755, and is probably Francis, Sr. with the youngest son (possibly Randolph) and youngest daughter (possibly Elizabeth) still at home. Francis, Sr. would now be about 60 years old. The 1800 household of the Cumberland County Francis included three males under 10; one male between 26 and 45; and one female between 26 and 45. This is no doubt Francis, Jr., who would be about 40. No James Redding is included in the 1800 census.

Daniel Redding (Reddin) was married on February 17, 1800 to Polly Perry in Wake County and appears with himself and his bride as the only members of their household in the 1800 census. Judkins Barham was the bondsman in Daniel's marriage.

In the 1802 Wake County Tax List, Captain Phillips's district includes: Francis Reding [Francis II] with 140 acres and Daniel Redding with 72 ½ acres. Also includes Judkins Barham, Nathaniel Perry, Francis King, Richard King, William Parrish, Benjamin Barham, William Barham.

The 1805 Wake County Tax List, Buffalow District includes: Daniel Redding, 72 ½ acres and Robert Redding, 140 acres (previously Francis's in 1802). Also includes: William Barham, Benjamin Barham, Francis King, Richard King.

Daniel Redding was a bondsman for the marriage of Sarah Barham to Gilbert Alford in Wake County in 1815.

Daniel Redding appears in the census in Wake County in Buffaloe District (formerly Hillsborough) in 1820 and 1830.

July 9, 1842: Daniel Redding purchased land from Judkins Barham in Wake.

Selah (Celia, Sealy) Redding Earp (b. ca. 1760)

Much of the following information is from Ronney Earp, a researcher of the Earp family. Selah Redding Earp was the wife of [John] Edward Earp who was born about 1745, according to his pension record filed in Johnston County, North Carolina in 1823 which listed him as 78 years of age. The pension names his wife as Celia.

Pension application of Edward Earp S41468
fn18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of North Carolina, Johnston County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions February Term 1823
On this 24th day of February 1823 Personally appeared in open Court, it being a Court of Record for the County & State aforesaid Edward Earp aged about 78 years, and Resident in said County & State for eight or 10 years past, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary War as follows – that he first enlisted under Captain William Ward at Wake old Court house in this State for an 18 months tour of service and served out his said tour of service faithfully. that soon after his enlistment he marched with other troops to Wilmington

in the State of North Carolina Where Colonel Long & General Buncomb [sic, Buncombe] Commanded, he believes it was the fourth Regiment in the North Carolina line, after which period of service he again enlisted under Captain John Salter [?] could be Latter] for 12 months and served his time but in the Southern States. That he again enlisted under Colonel Lewis Bledsoe and was in the The battle at Gates defeat and Stono. that he always served out the several periods of his enlistment faithfully. And in pursuance of the Act of the 1st May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of An Act of Congress entitled “An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War,” passed on the 18th day of March 1818; and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me, nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me Subscribed Schedule: To wit of each article of Real & personal Estate (Viz) 1 Puter[sic, pewter?] bason 1 do dish & 3 puter plates valued \$1.50; 3 Case knives & t forks \$1 Butcher knife old .40; 1 washing tub & Pail 4/ 1 churn 2/6 .65; 1 Flax Wheel 10/-- 1 wool wheel 5/1.50; 2 old irons 1/6 .25; 4 old chairs frames—8/.80; 1 old pine table .50; 1 Bed & furniture 10.00; 1 Iron pot 20/-- 1 Butter pot \$2—1 specie 10/5.00 \$20.60; Bed & furniture deducted 10.00; \$10.60

Sworn to in open Court

S/ Edward Earp, X his mark

S/ RM Sanders, Clk

and that he has no other property or any real estate whatever. That his occupation is a farmer but being now very old and infirm he is unable to maintain himself and unable to pursue it to make a support—being now nearly 78 years of age. That his family is composed of himself and his wife “Celia Earp” very old & sickly between 60 & 70 years of age, his daughter Louisa [?] 24 years of age and her child four years of age named Zelia Ann Smith; the father of the said child, was James Smith who married the said Louisa & since has deserted her to run away—leaving her and her child upon this deponent for support—that said James Smith is gone to some foreign Country unknown to the said Edward Earp. That he is entirely unable to support himself and family from their labor and could not make out to live off it except for the charity of his neighbors – who sometimes assist him. Sworn to & subscribed in open Court it being a Court of Record.

S/ Edward Earp, X his mark

[James Edins [sic, James Edens?] and Elmer Hendley of Wake County NC gave affidavits saying they knew Edward Earp during the revolution [although neither says he served with Earp] and believe Earp's statements about his service and his reduced circumstances to be true.]

An Edward Earp (possibly the father or uncle of Edward who married Selah Redding) bought 200 acres in Bertie County, North Carolina, from Richard Pace out of a 500 acre patent in 1737 that Pace obtained in 1720, Deed Book E, p 200. An earlier reference to an Edward is in 1731 in Fairfax County, Virginia. He is listed as a tenant, paying rent to Benjamin Sebastain for land owned by Alexander. Other Earps in Bertie and Northampton County are William Earp, Pettycord Earp, Henry Earp, America Earp, as well as eight Earps on the 1770 North Carolina Militia.

The Wilkes County Heritage Book lists the descendants of Abednego Earp, including John Earp and Rebecca of Fairfax County, Virginia, who are believed to have had the following sons: Henry, Thomas, Joshua, America, and William. They also may have had sons Edward, Joseph, and John. In the State Records of Granville County, North Carolina, the 1771 Militia includes: Thomas Tharpe, America Tharpe, and Henry Tharpe. Tharpe is a common variation of Earp.

In March 1775 Henry Collum witnessed land procession in Capt. Samuel Pearson's District to owners, Emmanuel Earp 300 acres, and Edward Earp 150 acres in Wake County, NC. Henry Collum received 400

acres in Wake and Johnston County NC on the south side of Buffloe, grant # 156, from Gov. Richard Caswell, June 3, 1782. Wake County today borders Johnston County.

This Edward (who married Selah Redding) has a pension listed in 1823 in Johnston County. A Young family Bible in the possession of Ronney Earp says that: Hutson [or Hudson] Earp, son of John Edward & Sealy Earp, departed this life April 19, 1874, age 86 years, 1 month, 13 days. Celia, then, was having a child in 1788.

[John] Edward Earp is believed to be the brother of William Earp, who is listed on LDS records as a son of John and Rebecca Earp. William Earp of Johnston County, North Carolina, had the following children: Jonathan, Burwell, Sherrod, and Unity. In addition he married Alsabeth Richardson O'Neal in 1794 in Johnston County. They had Littleberry Earp who was the father of Wyatt Earp, founder of Earpsboro, a community in O'Neals Township in northern Johnston County at the Wake County Line. This Wyatt was born 22 years before the frontiersman of the same name and married Mariah Fountain. Both are buried in Earpsboro off NC 96, Johnston County, North Carolina.

On January 26, 1784, Francis Redding, Sr. and Francis Redding were witnesses to sale of 200 acres for 40 pounds to James Gilbert by Edward Earp (probably husband of Selah Redding Earp). The tract was described as "lying on the east side of Poplar Creek adjoining Francis Reddin, Senr., John Brown, and Watson. Recorded in Wake County.

Children of Edward and Selah Earp included: Hutson (born 1788), William (born about 1783).

Earpes in the Wake County census in 1790 were: Edward, Henry, John, Luke, Susanna, William.

Elvena Shaw (b. ca. 1775? unless her marriage to Joseph Shaw was perhaps her second)

Elvena Redding (Lavina in will) married Joseph Shaw on June 12, 1798. A Joseph Shaw was in the Wake County, NC, census in 1800 (another Joseph Shaw was in Orange County). In 1840, Joseph Shaw was 83 years old (born 1757), in the census in Wake County, living on Panther Branch, and was a military pensioner. Joseph is thought to be the son of John Baptist Shaw and Frances McElroy. John Shaw was born in Virginia and died in Wake County, North Carolina, in 1816.

Mary Newsom (b. before 1780)

Nothing yet found about Mary Redding Newsom. A possibility is: 1) Mary A. Newsom (75, born in North Carolina) in home of Robert Newsom (30, born in Tennessee) in Hickman County, Tennessee, in 1850 census.

[Robert] Allen Redding (b. ca. after 1780)

This seems to be the Robert A. Redding in Wake County land records. In Francis's will, probated 1804, he left to his wife, Mary, "land and plantation whereon I now live with all property for her life or widowhood. At her death or marriage said land and plantation to be sold and money equally divided between Allen Redding and Randol[ph] Redding; residue at her death to go to son Randol[ph] Redding." This is some indication that Allen, Randolph, and Elizabeth were children of Francis's second wife.

In 1800, one Francis Redding and a Daniel Redding were in Wake County (living near each other) and another Francis Redding in Cumberland County (along with a Robert (age 26-44), a Nathan (age 26-44), and a William (over 45) all in separate households with families). The Robert and William in Cumberland are probably the sons of Timothy Redding who died in Cumberland in 1799.

By 1802, Francis (we assume the senior) had 140 acres in Wake County and Daniel Redding had 72 ½ acres. In 1805 after Francis, Sr.'s death, the 140 acres was held by Robert Redding and the 72 ½ acres still in the hands of Daniel. Since Francis's plantation was to be sold and equally divided between Allen (Robert Allen) and Randolph upon the death or remarriage of Mary, Mary must have remarried or died very shortly after Francis. Or perhaps she lived with Robert A. and the tax records showed Robert as owner.

On December 16, 1805, Robert Redding married Polly Richards (daughter of John Richards and Frances Perry) in Wake County with John Perry (uncle or grandfather?) as bondsman. A John Perry was in land records near Francis Redding in Halifax County, North Carolina, in the 1760s.

For 1810 and 1820, there is no Wake County census, and the Cumberland County Reddings included a Robert and a William (again probably sons of Timothy), but no James or Francis. By 1820 James was in Illinois, and Francis may have been in Tennessee.

April 22, 1824: Robert A. Redding purchased land from John Brown in Wake.

December 29, 1829: Robert A. Redding purchased land from Randolph Redding in Wake. Randolph was to receive half of the Francis Redding estate upon the death or remarriage of Mary, and Robert Allen the other half. So Robert A. Redding is probably buying Randolph's half in 1829 when Randolph moved to Alabama.

In 1830, Robert A. Redding was in Cross Roads District in Wake County, North Carolina, between 30 and 40 years old, with a wife the same age and five girls and four boys under age 20.

December 29, 1835: Sarah Redding, daughter of Robert A., married Cornelius Bryant (C.B.) Young in Wake County, North Carolina.

January 9, 1838: Robert A. Redding purchased land from C. B. Young in Wake.

January 10, 1838: Robert A. Redding purchased land from J. B. Young in Wake.

Note: Elizabeth Rose B. Redding, daughter of Robert, born about 1810, married William Nowell in Wake County, NC in 1829, was in Georgia about 1830, Winston, Mississippi, in 1850, and died in Texas OR was born in 1804, married Willis Nowell, and died in 1890 in Mississippi.

December 21, 1839: Milton Redding purchased land from Lethan Norwood in Wake.

September 28, 1840: R. A. (Robert) Redding grantor of land to John Harris in Wake. Land is the "Brown tract ... with neighbors James Wiggins, Claton Seagh and other containing 230 acres."

September 30, 1840: Elisha Redding grantor of land to Hardy Jones in Wake.

September 28, 1841: Milton Redding purchased land from Crawford Perry in Wake.

July 9, 1842: Daniel Redding purchased land from Judkins Barham in Wake.

May 14, 1842: Milton Redding grantor of land to W.H. McInvaill in Wake.

May 31, 1859: Amy Redding grantor of land to Solomon Higgins in Wake.

Randolph Redding (b. probably 1786)

Randolph Redding (born about 1786 according to census records, but in 1777 according to cemetery records) married Susanna Brown in Wake County on March 24, 1810, with Burwell King as bondsman. On August 2, 1814, Randolph Redding was bondsman for the marriage of Eliza Horton to Moses King in Wake County, and B. S. King was the witness. He was in the 1820 census in Wake County in the Cross Roads District. On March 2, 1837, he purchased 80 acres in Alabama. He was in the Greene County, Alabama, census in 1840, age 50-60; wife age 40-50; one female 10-15, one female under 5; one male 5-10, 3 males 10-15, one male 15-20, and one male 20-30. He was in the Perry County, Alabama, census in 1850, age 64 [born 1786] and born in North Carolina, with wife, Susan, age 54, born North Carolina.

December 29, 1829: Randolph Redding grantor of land to Robert Redding in Wake.

In the household next to Randolph in 1850 was his son Eli Redding, age 42, a carpenter, born in North Carolina; Sarah, 25, born in Alabama; John T., 23, born in North Carolina; Sarah, 19, born North Carolina; Narcissa, 12, born in Alabama; and Mary L., 4, born in Alabama. John T. and the second Sarah may be children of Randolph. Mary L. and possibly Narcissa are children of Eli. In 1860, Eli was still in Perry County, Alabama, 48, a mechanic, born in North Carolina, with Sarah A., 38, born in Alabama; Mary, 14; Margaret, 8; Walter, 9; Cora, 4; and S. E. Bland, 55, a mechanic born in Georgia. The children were all born in Alabama. In 1870, Sarah was the head of household in Perry County, 48, with Walter, 19, a railroad hand, Maggie (?), 18, and Cora, 13.

Cemetery records of the Marion Cemetery in Perry, Alabama show that Rev. Randolph Redding, born in Wake Co., North Carolina on July 4, 1777, died in Marion, Alabama on May 10, 1853. Family records show his children as: Eli (1808); John T. (1827); and Sarah A. (1831), all born in North Carolina. A William Redding, born in 1834 in North Carolina with both parents born in North Carolina, also appears in Perry County, Alabama, census records through 1900.

Elisabeth Redding (b. ca. after 1780)

In Francis Redding's will, he left furniture, livestock and 20 shillings to his daughter Elisabeth Redding.

An Elisha Redding appears in Wake County records and may have been a grandson of Francis. He married Betsy Dowdy in Johnston County, North Carolina, in 1820 and married Lucy Hinnant in Johnston County on October 4, 1825, with James Hillard bondsman and Ram Sanders witness. Elisha was in the Johnston County militia muster in 1814. He was in the Johnston County census in 1830.

