

The Chatham Historical Journal

Volume 7, Number 1

Chatham County, North Carolina

March 1994

Some Early Baldwin and Related Families of Chatham County, N.C.

Barbara Roth*

The early settlement of Chatham County was in part from the Quaker settlements in eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware. The purpose for investigating this Quaker history was to try to determine the ancestry of Samuel Baldwin, the owner of the well-known Baldwin's Mill on Terrell's Creek** in the early 1800s. This mill was restored to operating condition by the Hobbs family.

A John Baldwin preceded Samuel in the area, arriving by 1756 or earlier. Research by Samuel's descendants in Texas suggested that their forebears came from Amelia County, Virginia, where there was indeed a succession of Baldwins, one of whom went to North Carolina—but to a coastal location. I could not verify a connection there. It was only by perusing genealogies of the Pyle, Lindley, and Hadley families in the Chatham County Historical Association files in the Pittsboro Memorial Library that I discovered the probable truth. I am most grateful to whoever deposited these manuscripts.

The genealogy chart on page 3 should be consulted to follow the intermarriages of the Baldwin, Lindley, Hadley, Johnson, and Pyle families.

In the Quaker Colony of Southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware

Three young Baldwin brothers—Thomas, John, and Francis—sailed from Oxfordshire, England, around 1682 as servants of Joshua Hastings, who paid for their passage.¹ It is known that Thomas, a black-

**Two Terrell's Creeks flow into the Haw River, one from the north, the other from the south. When reference is made to the northern creek, it appears: Terrell's Creek_N.

*Barbara Roth is a research scientist who has been studying the natural history of the Jordan Lake basin since 1970. After her retirement from Burroughs Wellcome Co., her investigation continued, with added emphasis on the area's human history.

smith, was born in 1657 and that he died in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1731, leaving a will. John was a carpenter who became a wealthy merchant in Chester County. He received fifty acres of land as a part of William Penn's "concessions and conditions" for servants settling in the county.

A history of Delaware County, Pennsylvania,² records that John₁ Baldwin, who settled in Aston Township, married Katharine Turner "according to the usages of Friends." The account records, however, that although a member of the Friends, he did not appear to have taken much interest. Their two children were John₂, born about 1690, and Ruth. John₂ married Hannah Johnson. The Robert Johnson family emigrated from Carlow Meeting, Ireland; they were received in 1714 in New Garden Meeting, Pennsylvania. Six children named upon Johnson's death in 1732 did not include a Hannah; she may have predeceased him. Two sons, Joshua and Robert₂, named daughters Hannah, possibly for their grandmother or aunt.³

The Hadley and Lindley families arrived in Pennsylvania just before the Johnsons. Simon Hadley and his wife Ruth arrived in 1712 and purchased a tract of 2000 acres southwest of Philadelphia. When the Pennsylvania-Delaware boundary was drawn, the line passed through his property, leaving some of his plantation in Chester County, but his legal residence lay in New Castle County, Delaware. James Lindley and his wife Eleanor were received by the Quaker meeting in Pennsylvania in 1713. By the time of his death in 1726, James had acquired a plantation of 1,000 acres and personal property valued at over 1000 pounds. Their first son, Thomas, married Simon Hadley's daughter Ruth in 1731, and Ruth's sister Catherine married Robert₂ Johnson.⁴

Samuel Pyle was born in 1700 at Concord, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. Family records⁵ show that his two oldest sons were Nicholas, born early in 1722, and John, born fourteen months later at Kennett, in Chester County. Both Samuel and his

son John received an education in medicine in London, which equipped them to be physicians.

The Calendar of Delaware Wills tells us that John₂ Baldwin died in 1744 or 1745 and that he was a yeoman of Christiana Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware.⁶ His wife was not named, so evidently she had died earlier. Children named were Francis (the oldest), Hannah, William, Elizabeth, Mary, Sarah, and John₃. Mary and Sarah Baldwin married the two oldest Pyle sons. Dr. John Pyle married Sarah Baldwin in June 1744 in Pennsylvania, and they were the parents of eight children. Their daughter, Sarah Pyle, married John Lindley, a son of Thomas and Ruth Hadley Lindley, in 1768.⁷

The Quaker Migration to North Carolina

A mass migration of Quakers in a southward direction occurred around 1750.⁸ With new generations wanting their own land, and with the lure of sunnier climes, abundant game, fish and pure waters, as well as excellent timber and soil, many of them took the Great Wagon Road south, and many of them chose the Cane Creek area of North Carolina as their future home.

Thomas Lindley and his wife had nine children by the time they arrived at Cane Creek in 1750. Elinor, their tenth, was born at Cane Creek in September of 1750.⁹ By 1755, when the first priorities had been accomplished—building their log cabin, clearing the land, and raising crops—Thomas and his neighbor Hugh Laughlin decided to go into partnership and build a gristmill along the creek. A document to this effect exists in Orange County records: "the water to be taken out of that land owned by Hugh Laughlin and the mill to be built on that part owned by Thomas Lindley, 3 and 3/4 acres, Sept. Court, 1755."⁹ This mill is still in operation, although with modern equipment. It was at this site that the Revolutionary War Battle of Lindley's Mill took place in September of 1781.¹⁰

John Pyle is known to have been in the area in 1755.¹¹ He acquired land in 1759, and he and Sarah built their home less than a quarter-mile down the road from Lindley's Mill.¹²

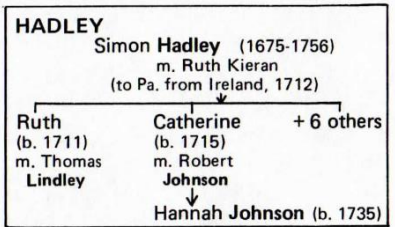
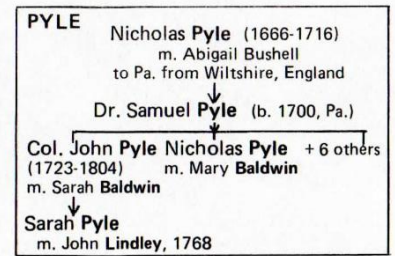
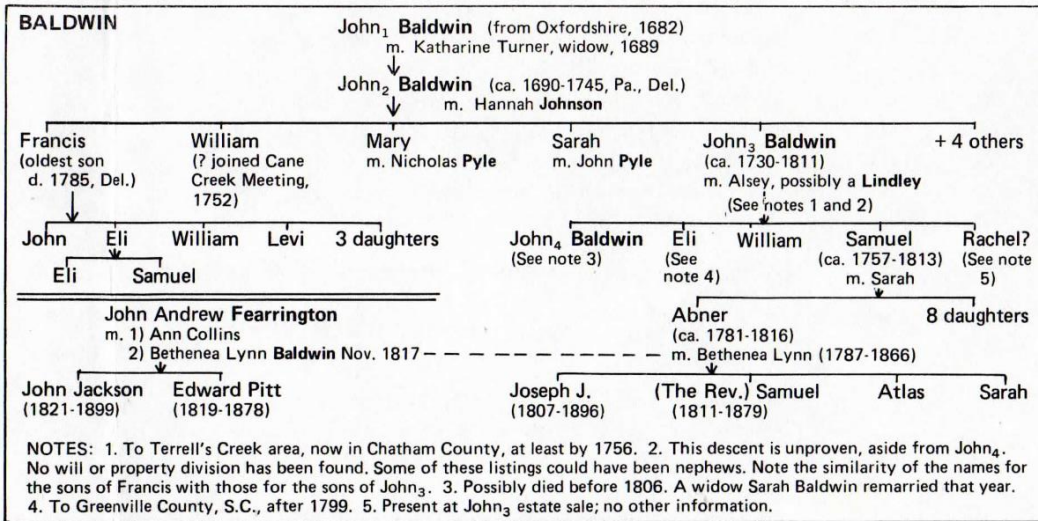
Hinshaw's Quaker genealogy¹³ lists a William Baldwin who joined the Cane Creek Meeting in 1752, but no John. Whether or not this was John₃ Baldwin's brother we cannot tell, although it seems probable. Baldwin families are also listed for New Garden and Deep River Meetings, but seem unrelated to the families of our interest here.

The first record that I found of John₃ Baldwin in the area comes from a survey by William Churton on 16 November 1756. John Baldwin and Simon Lindley served as chain carriers for this survey on Cane Creek for James Lindley, planter. The very next day, John assisted in the survey of 200 acres on the Lick branch of Terrell's Creek, again for Lindley.¹⁴ These surveys resulted in two land grants in 1761, totaling 840 acres.¹⁵ (James Lindley was 21 years of age that year and probably preparing to wed his sweetheart, Mary Cox, whose father was also a gristmill owner.¹⁶)

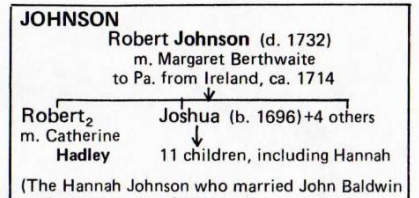
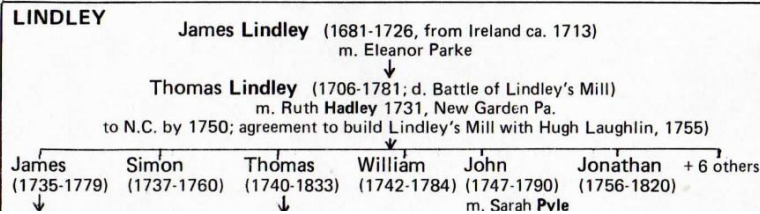
Since the Baldwin family looms so large in later Chatham County history, one might expect to find one or more early land grants in the area to John₃ Baldwin. No such early grant remains on file, although indirect evidence tells us that he did indeed acquire land on Terrell's Creek, possibly by 1762. This information comes from tracing the history of the tract of land on Terrell's Creek where the present-day Baldwin's Mill stands. In 1788 Joseph Meacham purchased two tracts of land, containing 323 acres, from William and Jane Holliday; one of these tracts was described as being along John Baldwin's line.¹⁷ The tracts had descended from Samuel Holliday,¹⁸ who had purchased 490 acres in 1771 from John and Mary Lambert.¹⁹ This historically valuable deed provides a complete history of the tract; I quote in part: "...between John Lambert and Mary his Wife of the County of Chatham and the Province of North Carolina on the one part and Samuel Holiday of the County of Orange...Carpenter...Whereas James Lindley and Mary his Wife of the County of Orange...by their Deed bearing date of Fourth of May Anno Domini 1762 did Grant and Convey unto the said John Lambert...part of a Grant to James Lindley from the Right Honorable John Earl Granville bearing date the Eighth of January Anno Domini 1761...a certain Tract...being part of the said Tract conveyed to John Baldwin by the said John Lambert...south across Terrell's Creek and a branch...containing 490

The **Chatham Historical Journal** is an occasional (usually 2-3 issues per year) publication of the Chatham County Historical Association. Its purpose is to preserve in print materials on local history. Articles or photographs submitted for consideration should be previously unpublished, of reasonable length, and include detailed sources of information.

Back issues (from 1988) are available while they last. Correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, CCHA, Box 913, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.



Some families who emigrated from Ireland or England in the late 1600s to Quaker colonies in SE Pennsylvania, having descendants who migrated to the Cane Creek area of [then] Orange County, North Carolina, around



acres..." Many early Orange County deeds were destroyed at the time of the Revolution; only indirect evidence such as this tells of early ownership.

The first land grant to John₃ Baldwin that is still available was recorded in 1780. It was for 200 acres on the Meadow Branch of Terrell's Creek, in his own line. In 1786 he sold this land to his son John₄, who in turn sold it a year later.²⁰ No further mention of John₄ (called Junior) was found in Chatham County. Other transactions by John₃ Baldwin will be described in my companion article,* which deals more directly with Baldwin mills.

Did John Baldwin build his own gristmill on a stream? We do not know. Lois Ann Hobbs, the current owner of Baldwin's Mill, tells that there were several very early mill dams along Terrell's Creek, at each point where a suitable drop in the land occurred. John Baldwin certainly lived in the midst of several millers in addition to Thomas Lindley. Lindley's son James, John's friend, had married the daughter of a mill owner, and the Hadleys had a mill on Terrell's Creek.

Early Settlers and The Revolutionary War

Nothing is known of John Baldwin's involvement in the Revolutionary War. A John Baldwin was in the Revolutionary Army, but which John Baldwin

*[Editor's note: Forthcoming in the *Chatham Historical Journal*, Vol. 7, No. 2 or 3.]

it was, one cannot tell. However, John's sister Sarah was in the thick of the tragic events that surrounded the Pyles and the Lindleys.

Pyle, although trained as a physician, achieved fame because of his political convictions. He felt forced to protest the extortionist policies of Col. Edmund Fanning and fellow officers in Hillsborough and joined the Regulators on their march from Salisbury. His name is among the 22 signatures on a petition to the Governor "for assistance...to execute the Laws against said exactions and extortions..."²¹ However, he remained loyal to the Crown and was made a colonel in the Loyalist militia. He considered himself a Loyalist rather than a Tory.

Meanwhile, his friend Thomas Lindley became a Patriot, as did his young son Jonathan. However, his other sons, James, John, and William, all espoused the Tory cause. We find James living in South Carolina at the beginning of the war. David Fanning, in his appalling account, recalled: "The first day of May [1775], Capt. James Lindley, of Rabern's Creek, sent to me, as I was a Sergeant of the said company, to have his company warned to meet at his house..."²² Lindley was captured at the Battle of Kettle Creek, Georgia, in 1779, imprisoned, tried, and hanged in April of that year.²³ William Lindley, a son of James, was murdered by Loyalist deserters in 1782.²⁴ Fanning wrote of this, saying, "...endeavoring to make peace, I had reason to

believe they did not intend to be as good as their words; as three of their people followed Capt. [William] Linley [*sic*]; and cut him to pieces with their swords."²⁵

David Fanning's remarkable mare, Red Doe, was said to have been given to him by Capt. William Lindley, the son of James. They were very close friends.²⁶ The Lindley genealogy²⁷ records that William Lindley, the brother of James, was murdered on 29 September 1784—what a ghastly thing, if true—and that John Lindley lost all of his property at the end of the war and had to flee the state.

In the spring of 1781 Col. Pyle was marching toward Hillsborough with his troops when he met a detachment of rebels, whom they thought were Lt. Col. Tarleton's Corps and, as Cornwallis reported, "allowed themselves to be surrounded, and...inhumanly butchered, when begging for quarters, without making the least resistance."²⁸ Legend has it that Col. Pyle, although grievously wounded (he apparently lost an eye), hid in the waters of a pond until the rebels were gone and was able to make his way home to his Sarah.

In September of 1781 David Fanning captured the governor of North Carolina and nearly 200 of his men at Hillsborough and was making his way toward Wilmington via Lindley's Mill when he was intercepted by rebels.²⁹ A fierce battle resulted, in which Thomas Lindley was killed near his home, along with many other Patriots and Loyalists. Col. Pyle, still recovering from his wounds, went out as soon as the battle was over to tend the wounded from both sides.³⁰ The outcome of Pyle's involvement led to a happier ending than the Lindleys. He was so highly regarded by Whigs as well as Tories that he suffered no property loss at the end of the war. He died at Cane Creek in 1804.³¹

NOTES

1. W. J. Cleaver, *The Ancestry of Allen Grinnell Cleaver & Martha Irene Jessup* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1989), p. 150-151, citing C.C. Baldwin, "Thomas Baldwin of Chester County, Pennsylvania" (1881, 1889).

2. George Smith, *History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: Henry B. Ashmead, 1862), p. 443.

3. J. Smith Futhey, and Gilbert Cope, *History of Chester County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881), p. 615, in A.C. Myers, *Immigration of the Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985), p. 338.

4. Lyle Hadley, "Hadley Genealogy," in preparation, and M.M. Ewing, "Jacob Marion Lindley, His Ancestors and Descendants," 1978; both on file at Pittsboro Memorial Library, Pittsboro, N.C.

5. Lela Livingston, *Pyle Family History, 1594-1954* ([Lamoni, Iowa]: H. Pyle & R. D. Goodwin, [1954]).

6. I am indebted to Mrs. Bob (Mary Ann) Bailey of Austin, Texas, for this information. She is a great-great-granddaughter of the Rev. Samuel Baldwin.

7. Livingston, p. 18, 23.

8. Algie I. Newlin, *The Newlin Family: Ancestors & Descendants of John & Mary Pyle Newlin* (Greensboro, 1965), p. 35. This reference gives a bit of general background about the Quaker move.

9. Ewing, p. 9.

10. Algie I. Newlin, "The Battle of Lindley's Mill" (Burlington: Alamance County Historical Association, 1975).

11. N.C. Secretary of State, *Granville Land Grants*, 101-M (N.C. Archives); Margaret M. Hofmann, *The Granville District of North Carolina 1748-1763: Abstracts of Land Grants*, Vol. II (Weldon, N.C.: Roanoke News Co., 1987), entry 2240, p. 98.

12. Hofmann, entry #2075, p. 81; and Newlin, "Battle of Lindley's Mill," p. 14.

13. William W. Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, Vol. I (Ann Arbor: Edwards Bros., 1936), p. 372, 489, 775.

14. William D. Bennett, ed., *Orange County Records, Vol. 5, Granville Proprietary Land Office, Deeds and Surveys, 1752-1760* (Raleigh, 1989), entry #343, p. 117; entry #393, p. 134.

15. N.C. Department of State, *Land Grant Records*, Vol. 14, p. 445, 446 (N.C. Archives).

16. Lindley S. Butler, *The Narrative of Col. David Fanning* (Davidson, N.C.: Briarpatch Press, 1981), footnote 56, p. 35.

17. Chatham County Deed Book F, p. 12, 46.

18. See Wade H. Hadley, Doris G. Horton, and Nell C. Strowd, *Chatham County, 1771-1971* (Durham: Moore Publishing Co., 1971), p. 404, for Holliday relationships with the Hadleys and Lindleys.

19. Chatham County Deed Book A, p. 41.

20. Chatham County Deed Book B, p. 244; Book D, p. 97, 241.

21. William L. Saunders, ed., *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*, Vol. VII (Raleigh: State of North Carolina, 1890), p. 811-813.

22. Walter Clark, ed., *The State Records of North Carolina*, Vol. XXII (Goldsboro: State of North Carolina, 1907), p. 181-182.

23. Butler, footnote 2, p. 19.

24. Butler, footnote 67, p. 41; see Clark, XXII, p. 1047 for confirmation that "Capt. Linley" is the son of James Lindley.

25. Clark, XXII, p. 217.

26. Hadley *et al* is probably in error in citing Thomas, rather than James, as the father of William. Thomas was actually his grandfather. See Eli W. Caruthers, *Revolutionary Incidents and Sketches* (Philadelphia: Hayes and Zell, 1854; republished by the Guilford County Genealogical Society, 1985), p. 63, 67-69, for a discussion of William, as well as the saga of Red Doe (called Bay Doe in his account). See also Butler, p. 41, 79-80.

27. Ewing, p. 8.

28. Clark, XVII, p. 1000.

29. Clark, XXII, p. 206-207.

30. Newlin, "Battle of Lindley's Mill," p. 21.

31. Livingston, p. 23.