

CHARLES N. AND MARGARET (RIDDLE) BAILEY

My ancestor Charles Bailey was born sometime between 1789 and 1794 on Storey (Story, Storie) Branch, a tributary of Little King Creek in Wilkes County, N.C. (now Caldwell). When he was less than ten years old, he came to the wilderness of the Toe River Valley. Details of that difficult and fantastic journey may be found in the story of his parents, ANSEL AND ELIZABETH (BRADLEY) BAILEY.

Among the neighbors of the Baileys in their new residence (on Lower Browns Creek near Celo in present Yancey Co.) was JOHN W. RIDDLE (Sr.), whose daughter Margaret ("Peggy," born about 1795) must have been one of Charles' friends from church meetings (and perhaps from "subscription" schools). They were married prior to 1815 (the year that their oldest child was born) and are shown in the 1820 National Census (Burke Co.) next-door to his parents (and two names removed from that of her parents). There are four minors in the family under the age of 10, 2 males and 2 females. Presumably children of this couple, and if so some of them must have died young: of the surviving adult children, only two seem to have been born by 1820.

The 1830 Burke Census has: 2 males under age 5, 2 males aged 5-9, 2 aged 10-14, and 1 aged 30-40; 1 female aged under 5, 2 aged 5-9, 1 aged 20-29.

The 1840 Yancey Census has: 1 male under 5, 2 aged 5-9, 2 aged 10-14, 2 aged 15-19, and 1 aged 30-39; 1 female aged 15-19, and one aged 40-49.

This allows for as many as 14 children, but only 11 can be accounted for.

In 1834 he obtained a grant from the State for 100 Acres on Browns Creek (Warrant #8, File #20). In 1837 he sold 630 acres near his home to Thomas Gibbs (Yancey Deeds, II, p. 199) and bought 30 acres on Jacks Creek from Malcolm McCourry, adding 15 more from Thomas Deyton the next year. He thus moved to the vicinity of Day Book, specifically on the ridge behind the present Bailey Hill Cemetery. The move is likewise attested by the Minutes of Zion Baptist Church, which record that Charles Bailey, Margaret Bailey, and John Riddle were admitted to membership by letter (i.e., transfer of membership) on Sept. 21, 1839. It is not clear whether the John Riddle is Senior or Junior, but I suspect the latter (who in fact moved to this vicinity).

The Minutes contain a number of other reference to this family, among them:

Jan., 1840: Charles Bailey "kept his seat for misconduct and was restored to his seat again." (That is, he did not stand at the moment called for as a signal of being in "fellowship" with members of the congregation.)

July 29, 1841: Charles Bailey and others appointed as representatives to the next Association (a regional meeting of congregations).

March 26, 1842: kept his seat for not attending church.

April, 1842: Peggy Bailey kept her seat "for evil conduct," but "took her seat again" at the May meeting.

August, 1845: Charles and Peggy Bailey join the church by letter of transfer (a puzzling reference, in view of that of Sept. 21, 1839).

Nov. 20, 1845: moved that "Brother Bailey be set apart for examination for ordination for Deacon."

Oct. 25, 1846: Brother Baley and Brother Hughes and to visit and "laber with Brother Ayers before our next meeting" (that is, help solve some spiritual problem).

June 27, 1846 (1847?): Charles Bailey, among others, appointed as delegates to the next Association.

Feb. 27, 1847: All members found to be in fellowship except Sister Peggy Bailly who" kept her seat against ----" (illegible name); case continued until the next session.

March 27, 1847: Case of Peggy Bailey against Fanny Laws taken up and decided.

June 26, 1847: Charles and James Bailey appointed delegates to the Association.

Aug. 21, 1847: Bro. Charles Baily and Silas Steephens to invite John and Nellie Riddle to attend the next meeting. (John Riddle, Jr., married Nellie Cook.)

Feb. 2, 1847 (1848?): Peggy Baily to invite Sister Nelly Riddle.

June 24, 1848: Delegates to the Association include "Beloved Brother Charles Bailey."

The Minutes now contain a membership list, including this notation: "Charles Bailey, decd."

In the Spring of 1844, he served as security for Benjamin

Riddle as Administrator for John Riddle, Sr., decd. (Mrs. Bailey's father). He lists his property as 550 acres, valued at \$700.00.

In January of 1848, he is among a list of persons whose property tax is reduced.

The 1850 Yancey Census (Schedule III, Mortality) contains the notation that Charles Bailey died at age 60 in Dec. of 1849, of "viceral calculi" after a sickness of 270 days. This affliction (for those of you who might have to "look it up," as I did) is kidney/bladder stones, a particularly painful circumstance which he endured for 9 months before it "did him in." (This same affliction was suffered by his son William/"Bill.")

Charles is buried in an unmarked grave at Bailey Hill Cemetery (precise location unknown). My old friend Doc Bailey (a great-grandson of Charles) told me that it was in the last row to the right (as one enters), toward the center, near Mark and Margaret Renfro, with a tall rock that was sloped on both sides as it neared the top. I went there and found a stone just as he had described it. Later, all of the old fieldstones were broken off at ground level to facilitate mowing and thus the location was lost forever. Other persons have said that the location is nearer the top of the ridge, in the middle, near son Jesse.

The County Court order for the division of his estate is dated 9/4/1851, the main purpose being to divide the 628 acres of his farm. A prior order (Jan., 1850) had named sons James

and Ansel as Administrators (in the absence of a will), requiring a bond of \$1,000.00 (two other sons, Harvey and John, served as Security for the bond). The Minutes name the heirs, namely the children given below. At the residence of widow Margaret, lots were drawn for portions of the land.

Henry Roland (a son-in-law) was appointed Guardian for the minor sons William and Jesse, requiring a bond of \$200.00. (See Minutes of Fall Term, 1851, and Jan., 1852).

The 1860 Yancey Census (#518) shows Margaret Bailey, aged 65, in the household of son Jesse; also in 1870. She apparently was dead by 1880.

The only description of Margaret was retained by descendant Lester Byrd of Jacks Creek, who survived to the age of 100. He had heard that she was "a very tall woman."

The known children of this couple are:

1. Elizabeth ("Betsy"; 12/8/1815-4/8/1904). who m. Henry Roland (10/24/1813-4/24/1900) and lived at the mouth of Bailey Branch (Jacks Creek). They had no children, and are buried on the hill behind their house (marked).

2. John (12/?/1820-1/?/1897), apparently named for his grandfather Riddle, m. Susan ("Sooky") Hampton (12/19/1822-1/17/1896), daughter of Ezekiel (Jr.) of Jacks Creek. This couple lived near their ancestral home and are buried in marked graves (soapstone, now broken) at Bailey Hill. He alone of his surviving brothers did not serve in the Confederate Army (because of his age) and helped look after their families. [For one of the children, see JAMES BAILEY,

89, WORKS FARM ON TENNESSEE RIVER.]

3. Ansel (1/1/1821-2/10/1869), who m. Sarah Honeycutt (1826-1878), dau. of Elisha and Cecelia Hampton Honeycutt of Jacks Creek. They lived on Bailey Branch (Jacks Creek) and are buried near their home. [See ANSEL AND SARAH (HONEYCUTT) BAILEY.]

4. James W. (1822-11/27/1882), who m. (1st) Susannah ("Sooky") Ann Byrd (dau. of Charles and Jane Hampton Byrd of Jacks Creek) on 4/12/1849 and apparently lived near his parents. She is buried at Bailey Hill Cemetery (marked grave). They had one child, Melissa Jane, who m. Aaron Joshua ("Josh") Burton. James m. (2nd) Susan Luseba Hampton (11/9/1838-7/19/1909; dau. of Wade and Rutha Byrd Hampton) and had a large family. They are buried near their home at the mouth of Star Branch (Jacks Creek). He was a Confederate Soldier (58th NC Regt., Co. C) and was in the hospital with his brother Harvey when the latter was mortally wounded.

5. Nancy (1822/23-186?), who m. John Randolph (1818-1900) and died when her only child was small. They lived at the mouth of Pig Pen Road and are buried at Bailey Hill (she in an unmarked grave and reportedly the 3rd person to be buried there). He was an officer in the Confederate Home Guard. He later m. (2nd) Rebecca Renfro. He and Nancy had one child, Merritt (1857-1894), who m. Ann Robinson.

6. Mary ("Polly"; 1825-10/22/1909), who m. David ("Davie") Sultan Renfro, Sr. (b. 1822). They lived near Bailey Hill and are buried there. One of their sons, Mark, m.

his 1st cousin, Margaret Bailey (dau. of Ansel and Sarah, #3).

7. Harvey J. (11/3/1825-7/9/1864), who m. Aldecha Byrd (7/25/1826-9/8/1896), on 7/16/1848, and lived on Jacks Creek near the present C.L. Byrd house. She is the daughter of THE REV. SAMUEL BYRD. He was killed while a Confederate soldier in battle near Atlanta, Ga., and is buried in an unmarked grave at Covington, Ga. He was shot in the hand, it was amputated, and he died of gangrene. Several letters home to his wife survive, the contents of which reveal that he was a good father, a fine man, and a Christian. One of my sons is named for him (Ansel Asa Charles Harvey Ephraim). She is buried in the family cemetery near their home (marked).

The children of Harvey and Aldecha were:

a. Cornelius R. (6/13/1849-1/15/1872; named for his Byrd uncle), who married Nellie A. Peake (his first-cousin) on 1/26/1871. He died after taking a bath in Jacks Creek in mid-winter in order to remove a sulphur and lard paste which had been used to cure the "itch" (scabies) and is buried in the family cemetery. They had one son, "Little Nealie." She married (2nd) William Hensley.

b. Samuel Dempsey (8/30/1851-3/6/1933 (1932?)), who married Frances L. ("Franky") Evans on 10/15/1871 and they lived on Jacks Creek and then near Covey Rock at Green Mountain. They are buried at the Anglin Cemetery on Upper Jacks Creek (marked). They have a large contingent of descendants in Yancey Co. and in Pennsylvania. c.

William Robert ("Will"; 6/18/1853-8/2/1936), who married (1st)

Sarah J. Letterman (1860-1892). They lived on Moses Honeycutt Branch of Jacks Creek and are buried in the cemetery with his family. His grave, long unmarked, had a tombstone placed at it in 1993 by his descendant Ruby Whitson Caplan. [For one of their children, see ANDY AND HANNAH (BRADFORD) BAILEY.] Will married in 1898 (2nd) Elizabeth ("Bets") Conley (d. 1932), widow of Lafayette ("Fate") Conley (no children; see JOHN W. CONLEY, M.D. at #2) and she is buried with her Byrd ancestors on Jacks Creek. She is the mother of SINCLAIR B. CONLEY .

d. Marcus N. ("Mark"; 3/23/1855-7/1/1925), who married Jane M. Evans, lived near Covey Rock (Green Mountain in Yancey) and are buried near her parental home (near the Neal Elliott house) on Coxes Creek (Jacks Creek). He became mentally unstable and committed suicide by cutting his throat.

On his way from the field the previous day, he had gathered a large quantity of apples. When asked why he had done so, he said, "There will be a large crowd here tomorrow." They have a large number of descendants, mostly in Tennessee.

e. Charles Henry (8/16/1857-9/17/1944), who married Hettie Jane Howell (11/27/1868-2/10/1959), daughter of SWINFIELD W. HOWELL and 1st wife Elvira McCourry (widow of Thomas Bryant; see ZEPHANIAH AND JANE [PHILLIPS] McCOURRY). They lived on Jacks Creek near Roland Hill Baptist Church, moving from there to Flat Creek (Aledander) in Buncombe Co. in 1913 and are buried at the Baptist Church near their home. They are my ancestors through daughter Lillie (for whom see ANCIL AND LILLIE [BAILEY] BAILEY).

f. Harvey Ablythe ("Bly" 9/21/1859-1/22/1896), who was not married and lived with his widowed mother. He was a mason and school teacher, suffered from asthma, and is buried in the family cemetery (marked). There was a slight earthquake the night that he died, and he awakened his mother to ask what was happening. A bit later, she called to him and he did not answer. She went to him and found him dead, apparently of a heart attack.

g. Mary Drucilla ("Polly"; 9/19/1862-6/9/1938), who married Thomas Clingman ("Cling") Byrd and lived next-door to her parental home on Jacks Creek (the Sam Byrd house, which still stands). They are buried in the cemetery with her family. They are the parents of (among others) Lester Byrd of Jacks Creek who died in 1992 (?) at the age of 100 (one of my good friends and an near infallible source of family history).

8. Nathaniel ("Nat"; 1828/29-1852), who m. Elizabeth ("Betsy") George (after his death she m. his brother Jesse). His brother James and his brother-in-law Henry Roland were appointed Administrators of his estate (Yancey Wills, I, pp. 94, 299f.; Court Minutes, Spring Term, 1856, p. 33), and brother Jesse was appointed Guardian of the minor children. He is buried at Bailey Hill Cemetery in an unmarked grave. This couple had two children: (a) James Henry ("Jim"; 10/15/1849-3/9/1919), who m. Margaret Christine ("Teener") Evans (7/3/1849-3/29/1919) and lived on Long Branch near his parental home (both of whom died in the influenza epidemic and

are buried at Bailey Hill); (b) Nancy Cordelia (4/3/1852-1/4/1898), who m. Doctor ("Doc") M. Hampton (Doctor being his name, not a title; 1/9/1850-8/29/1913) and lived near his parental home. He later m. Martha Jane McCourry and all three are buried at Bailey Hill Cemetery. Nathaniel's grave is not marked.

9. William M. ("Bill": 2/18/1931-11/5/1904), who m. Rebecca Deyton (3/21/1838-2/21/1921). They lived near Bailey Hill and are buried there (marked).

10. Jesse (d. 4/22/1908 at age 68), who m. Elizabeth George (widow of his brother Nathaniel). They lived near his parental home and are buried at Bailey Hill Cemetery. Among their children is SAMUEL BYRD BAILEY who moved to Unicoi Co., Tenn.

11. Bacchus, the youngest child, forgotten by family tradition, but attested by two sources: (a) the Bible of his brother Harvey has this notation: "Backus H. Bailey departed this life November the 20, 1849"; (b) the Mortality Schedule of the 1850 National Census has: "Bacchus B. Bailey, aged 14, died in Nov., 1849, of unknown causes; sick for 8 days." His likely is buried at Bailey Hill, in an unmarked grave. A number of later members of the family were named for him.

Submitted by Lloyd Bailey, 4122 Deepwood Circle, Durham, N.C., 27707 (919-489-8731). Sources: Detail on any of the above may be found in my book, The Bailey Family of Yancey County, N.C., Vol. I (some 1,000 pages).