

12/14/1981

Dear Mrs. Cruik:

Thank you very kindly for mailing to me a copy of the Bratton Genealogy by Dorothy Kelly MacDonell. I had received a copy from Isabel Bratton Kirkwood. There are some few minor differences, but not enough to create any problems for me. I was very nice of you to provide this data, and I do appreciate it.

I am accumulating a rather large and voluminous stack of Bratton data concerning the Brattons who make up our early Bratton family.

As you may know the William Bratton married to Martha Robinson (maybe Robertson) was born in Virginia about 1738, he was a son of William Bratton, born 1718, Antism County, Ireland who came to America with his father Andrew Bratton and 3 brothers.

In the attachment I have given you some of the early history of the Brattons. As I am able to get all the supporting documents together, it is my plan to give you copies for your archives.

You will find in the attached a listing of the children of William and Martha, I have included the names of their grand children if they were available. But for 6 of their children I do not have that data. Do you have such data? Or can you refer me to someone who might help me?

Thank you again for your kindness.
Happy Holidays to you and yours

Sincerely

Bill Shelton

I Andrew Bratton

In the early 1730s Andrew Bratton, his wife, and four sons - Robert Bratton born 1712; James Bratton born 1714; Samuel Bratton born 1716; and William Bratton born 1718, came from the village of Antrim, County of Antrim, Ireland to this country. It is not known where they landed, but they settled in eastern Pennsylvania possibly Chester County.

Three of the sons Robert, James and William migrated to Virginia and settled in Augusta County, Virginia, where they remained for a time. James and William moved into the Montgomery County area later on.

Samuel Bratton remained in the Mifflin County area of Pennsylvania.

His father Andrew Bratton was the first white man to make a permanent home in what is now Bratton Township, Mifflin County Pa. in 1754 on land he had cleared and made improvements upon during the summer and fall of 1754. He was assessed in Hamilton Township in 1752 and before that probably came from Chester County. They had been driven out by the Indians in 1755 and again in 1763. In 1766 Rev. Charles Bratty, Presbyterian Missionary who preached the first sermons in Mifflin County stopped at Andrew Bratton's and it was on his farm that the first church was built in that part of the county.

Bratton Township was named for him. He died about 1780. The list of tracts warranted in 1755 in Mifflin County, Pa. reads:

Bratton, Andrew Bratton Jwp date Feb. 10, 1755 124 acres

The original home of Andrew Bratton was located on the original track referred to above which is located

approximately five miles south of M. Vinton, Va. across the Juniata River. The old home is remarkably well preserved as a remnant of the frontier settlement established around 1755. Brattens still live on, and still farm the land their ancestors farmed over 200 years ago, however much has changed down through the eight generations of Brattens.

Three follows come brief comment relative to the 4 sons of Andrew:

1. Robert Bratten born 1712 Ireland; died 1785, and in Augusta Co. Va. (the Farland) Dunlap, born 1718 in Scotland; daughter of Robert the Farland and Ester Skuston. He came to Augusta Co. 1733. He was a Captain in the French and Indian War 1756-58, a member of the Council of War for the protection of the Virginia frontier in 1756; owner of 2284 acres in Augusta Co. Va. and other lands in the western territories. He and Ann were the parents of six children; James, John, George, Adam, Aquino and Mary Brattens.

Comment: I leave this line as complete as I intend to make it unless I should come by some data that is well prepared and pertinent to the line.

2. James Bratten, born 1714, Ireland, married Elizabeth Graham and settled near Shreveburg, Montgomery County, Va. where he became a large land owner. He and Elizabeth were the parents of eight children; John, William, James, Peter, Thomas, Robert, Elizabeth and Jane Bratten.

Note: I am currently researching this line in Montgomery, Giles, Pulaski and Wexford Counties of Va.

and Monroe Co, W. Va. I do have some data but certainly not all that is available to me.

3. Samuel Bratton born 1716 married Mrs Samuel Bratton (we have been able to find her maiden name). It is from this line that my wife descends. Samuel remained in Pennsylvania, and did not migrate from the area. His children were:

a. James Bratton married to Rachel Richardson. they had:

- (1) William Bratton, born 1755
- (2) James Bratton, Jr., born 1751 My wife's line
- (3) Samuel Bratton, born 1762 and Margaret Robertson
- (4) Sarah Bratton
- (5) Elizabeth Bratton

b. Andrew Bratton and ~~Christian Hamilton~~ Rebecca Hamilton

- (1) William Bratton and Christiana Hamilton
- (2) John Bratton never married

Note I have this line as complete as I intend to make it through my grand children. With copies of wills, land records, etc. Military records, pension papers, etc.

4. William Bratton born 1718 and to ——— Dunlap. Migrated to Virginia where was involved to a large degree in the French and Indian War. He was taken prisoner by the Indians at Fort Vance June 25, 1756 he escaped. He also participated in the Revolutionary War. We have records to show his service, and his maiden as being in Montgomery County, Va. I have submitted a request to the National Archives for the 8 page service record

their children were:

a. Colonel William Bratton born 1738 Virginia; married to Martha Robinson, who migrated to South Carolina. In separate family book attached note that no data has been obtained on some their children.

b. Hugh Bratton	} all to South Carolina no data so yet.
c. Robert Bratton	
d. Thomas Bratton	

Note: We have much data concerning Colonel William & Martha Bratton. What about his brothers?

I have attached hereto the data I have concerning the children of Martha & William. Can you help me with the other children about whom we have no data?

The Children of Colonel William and Martha Bratton

1. Elsie (Ealie) Bratton and to Capt David Saddle, who were the parents of:

- a. Mary (Polly) Saddle and to Archibald Simpson
- b. Mary Bratton Saddle and to David S. Simpson
- c. William Bratton Saddle and to Jane Emma Moore
- d. Jane Saddle and to Thomas O. Hill
- e. John Foster Saddle and to Eliza Hardy
- f. Malinda Saddle and to David Bratly
- g. James Robertson Saddle and to Priscilla Lee Jones
- h. Joseph Milton Saddle died young
- i. Margaret L. Saddle and to Rev William Carlisle
- j. Elizabeth E. Saddle and to James A. Gray
- k. Richard Saddle died young
- l. David Saddle and to Jane McKees

2. Martha Bratton and John Foster no data

3. William Bratton MD and (1) Christina Wynn their children

- a. William M. Bratton b. 1802 d. 1806
- b. Nancy Bratton b. 1804 d. 1805
- c. Sophia Margaret Bratton and John Crawford
- d. Sarah Elizabeth Bratton died 1815

William and (2) Isabella J. Mann's children:

- e. William M. Bratton b. 1816 d. 1863 no data
- f. Isabella Mann Bratton and to Robert Graham McKean
- g. Mary Mann Bratton and to Edward Noble
- h. John Mann Bratton and to Elizabeth Parker Du Bose the parents of General John Bratton

4. Jane Bratton and to James Simpson No list
5. Elizabeth Bratton and to William Major Ross Esq. "
6. Nancy Agnes Bratton and to Robert McLean "
7. Mary Bratton and to George Steele "
8. John Simpson Bratton and to Harriet Rainey. Their Children:
 - a. William Bratton and to Isabella J. E. Hood
 - b. Infant and
 - c. John Simpson Bratton and Harriet Jane Rainey
 - d. Edward Edward Bratton and Letitia C. Johnson
 - e. James Rufus Bratton and Mary Rebecca Massey
 - f. Robert McLean Bratton and Mary —
 - g. Martha Elizabeth Bratton and John Thomas Lowrey
 - h. Mary Caroline Bratton and William Richard Lowrey
 - i. Ephraim C. Bratton and J. J. O'Bannon
 - j. Elizabeth Bratton and (1) James Felix Swales
(2) James Edward Swales
 - k. Harriett Jane Bratton and Samuel L. Rainey
 - l. Jane Eliza Bratton and (1) Thomas Jefferson Brumant
(2) C. Knox Williams
 - m. Agnes Bratton and John Stitt Harris
 - n. Thomas Bratton and Anna Louella Clarke
 - o. Napoleon Desaparte Bratton and Minnie Mason

6/29/1981

Dear Mrs. Furuson:

I have just returned home after an absence of three weeks, and found your nice batch of Bratton data, and what a pleasant surprise it was. Also had several other small batches of data, most of which pertained to the South Carolina Brattons.

You don't find Brattons many places, but when you do there's lots of them.

Yes, I did say that I would gladly share my data, and I meant just that. Too many people hoard their data for fear someone else will know as much as they, or will try to swoop the field, yet they always want everything you've got. Most of my data I have received by hard and diligent work, mostly on the same research, but I have always been liberal in helping others. I am glad to know that you also believe in helping others.

I am retired Colonel, US Army, 34 years service, also a retired Senior Management Analyst. & I plunged into the family research field, first first, having an excellent background in research this change over came quite naturally for me. I am considered to be a proficient researcher. Being a young 70 has not been a hindrance. I travel much of the time, I like to do my research in the areas where the subjects lived, worked, played and died. I like going through the old records and learn the history of the area. Walking over the grounds, seeing how they lived, talking to the old folks, etc. It's great fun and I love it.

I take pictures, usually have 3 cameras with me, I record their conversations, make voluminous notes.

At the end of each day I prepare a very careful trip report in which I account for every moment to show who I visited, data discovered, etc. In this way I don't miss much of anything. And it saves me many

steps in having to back track, etc.

On this last trip I participated in a ceremony for my Great, Great, Great Grandfather, Capt. Eliphae Shelton, who donated land for the establishment of a county seat town. Three or more years ago I brought to the attention of the county officials facts which revealed that he had never been given credit for his gift of 18 acres of land. So I was very fortunate in being able to live long enough to see that he did receive credit for his generous gift, even though they were 190 years late.

I have my Shelton family back to 742, about 45 generations. You don't get many of them back much further than that. I have my Tuck, Wilkins, and Layman families back to the point of their arrival in this country.

Would you want copies of my family histories?

I have a great deal of Bratton family data. I am still working on several of the lines, or am waiting for others to supply me with data.

I am also committed to the Brattonville Museum who in turn is committed to me.

I do think that insofar as it is possible to do so, we should make every effort to forward complete family units rather than on a piecemeal basis. I say this because I think it would be difficult for you or someone else to try to put a batch of data together.

When I send you data it will be a complete family unit, of course this would not apply to general type data.

I will try to start with Andrew Bratton, born 1686, County Antrim, Village of Antrim who came to America from Ireland with his wife and four sons about 1733, settling in Pennsylvania. His sons were as follows:

1. Robert Bratton born May 12, 1712, Antrim, County of Antrim, Ireland. He migrated to Augusta County, Virginia. I have probably the most complete run-down on his line that exists. Several of his children migrated to Kentucky and Indiana.
2. James Bratton, born 1714, Antrim, County of Antrim, Ireland. He migrated to Montgomery County, Virginia. I have copy of his will, inventory, etc. He had three children. I am still researching this line.
3. Samuel Bratton, born 1716, Antrim, County of Antrim, Ireland. He remained on the old home farm in Pennsylvania (Mifflin County). They were the very first white people to own the land, the farm is still in Bratton family, and has been a working farm since those early days. It is from Samuel that my wife Benita Bratton descends. I have this line about as complete as it will ever be.
4. William Bratton, born 1718, Antrim, County of Antrim, Ireland. It is from this William that your South Carolina Brattons descend. This William migrated to Virginia, we do not know yet whether he remained ~~there~~ there, it is known that he was wounded and taken prisoner at Fort Mifflin in 1756 by the Indians and returned. Fort Mifflin was located near what is now Shawville, Va. about 20 miles west of Roanoke, Va. We are told that he had four sons:
 - a. William - who supposedly went to S.C.
 - b. Hugh
 - c. James
 - d. Thomas
 } little or no data on them as of now.

I am devoting a great deal of my time at present on this line. Hopefully will turn up something.

I hope that you will be patient with me for a while, we are planning on our children who will

be here from California for the month of July, also
our son and family from Pennsylvania, plus other
relatives from time to time.

I am an avid gardener, have a rose bed with 300
plus roses, plus other types of flowers, etc.

I will do what I can along to get some data
ready for you.

Thank you again for the data you have sent
to me, I know it will be useful.

I will be back in touch with you as time will
permit.

Sincerely,

Bill Shilton