

New Information on Some Descendants of William Ferguson (b. abt 1740, d. 1801) and Annie Henderson of Fairfield District, South Carolina

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This paper addresses **William** and **Annie's** son, **William** (b. 26 Dec 1765, d. 20 Mar 1836 or 1837), and his relationship to **Joseph Ferguson**, whose will was proved 11 Nov 1816 in Fairfield District, SC. To keep the **Williams** straight, I refer to them as **William, Sr.** and **Jr.** It is concluded that **Joseph** is not a son of **William, Sr.**, but of **William, Jr.**

The Clan **Ferguson** Society of North America has on file a genealogy of some of the descendants of **William Ferguson, Sr.** and **Annie Henderson** of Fairfield District, SC.

The genealogy is reportedly based, at least in part, on a hand written document obtained by **Shirley F. Doran**, Genealogist, Clan **Ferguson** Society, in 1988 from **Jean C. Agee** of Chester Co., SC. The document purports to contain information from records and letters reviewed by **Eula Ferguson Taylor**, 207 W. Olive St., Portersville, California, in May 1929. The material concludes with the following note: "Records taken from old family Bible and sent by **Lydia (Ferguson) Atkins** 1999 [1899?]. Old records verified and additional facts given by paper written by **Elizabeth Ferguson**, wife of **Jacob Ferguson**. Paper dated 1858. Copies [of] this record made on May 27, 1955 [1935?] by **Elizabeth Ferguson Roberson [Koberson?]** at 289 West Olive Street, Portersville, Calif."

This genealogy shows **Joseph** as a son of **William, Sr.**

Documents concerning **William, Jr.** and his children and grandchildren were discovered a number of years ago in boxes in the attic of a building in Edgefield, SC. These documents were made available to the public in recent years and are held by the Edgefield County Archives, 124 Courthouse Square, Edgefield, South Carolina, 29824.

I have reviewed some of the documents mentioned in the preceding paragraph, including **William, Jr.'s** will and marriage contract with his second wife, **Rebecca**. The remarriage of **Rebecca** after **William, Jr.'s** death spawned a great deal of litigation in Edgefield, and the papers filed in that litigation clearly identify seven of **William, Jr.'s** eight children and six of his grandchildren. The names of the seven children match the names of the siblings mentioned by **Joseph** in his will. Thus, it must be that **Joseph** is the eighth child of **William, Jr.**

What follows is a description of those documents as well as other publicly available information that is consistent with the genealogy of some of the descendants of **William Ferguson, Sr.** and **Annie Henderson** that I set out below.

In the *History of Edgefield County from the Earliest Settlements to 1897*, **John A. Chapman** wrote that after the Revolutionary War, many Tories came to Edgefield from the Catawba and Broad River sections of South Carolina. According to **Chapman**, included among them were the brothers **William** and **Abram Ferguson**. **Chapman** incorrectly identified these men as brothers of the British military leader, **Patrick Ferguson**, who was killed at King's Mountain.

The areas called Chester District and Fairfield District, between 1800 and 1868, lie between the Catawba and Broad Rivers, a little north of Edgefield. These districts were home to early **Fergusons** who migrated to South Carolina from Virginia.

Chapman reported in his book that **William** and **Abram Ferguson** owned **Mickler** and **Denny** Plantations, near Saluda, SC, and that they are buried at **Denny's** across the road from the store. I visited the area a few years ago and stopped someone who lived in the vicinity. They knew of the graves described by **Chapman** and took me to the grave site. There were no markers, but I observed grave depressions at the site.

The 1820 Edgefield Census has **Wm Ferguson** listed as head of household with two males 16-26, one male 45 or older, and one female 45 or older. This is **William Ferguson, Jr.** and his first wife, unknown, the mother of all his children.

There is a marriage contract dated 10 October 1827, between **William Ferguson** and **Rebecca Crowder**, both of Edgefield District, South Carolina.

The will of **William Ferguson, Jr.** of the State of South Carolina and District of Edgefield, dated 25 Dec 1831, referenced the 10 October 1827 marriage contract and left **William, Jr.'s** real and personal property to his wife, **Rebecah**, so long as she continued to live in a state of widowhood. After her death or marriage, **William's** property was to go to his lawful heirs living in the United States of North America, with limited exceptions. The will named **Abraham Ferguson** as executor.

The 1830 Edgefield Census has **W. Furgason** as head of household with one male 20 to 30, one male 60 to 70, and one female 50 to 60. This is **William** and his second wife, **Rebecca**.

Rebecca Ferguson averred in an answer to a bill of complaint, sworn to and subscribed by her on 29 June 1846 and filed in Equity in Edgefield, that **William Ferguson** died 20 March 1836 or 1837. Either date is consistent with the fact that **William Jr.'s** will was recorded in Edgefield on 26 April 1837 in Will Book D, Page 24.

A Bill for Relief filed 25 March 1846 in Edgefield, Equity 839, by **John Ferguson** et al., against **Rebecca Ferguson O'Neill** and **Cullen O'Neill**, stated that the complainants, **John Ferguson**, **Jincey M. Clark**, **Agnes Corley**, **Keziah Edwards** and **Anna Reeves** were children of the deceased **William Ferguson**. The bill further stated that **Gideon, Lewis** and **Elizabeth Ferguson** were

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the children of **James H. Ferguson**, deceased, and grandchildren of **William Ferguson**, and that **Isiah, Martha and Abraham Ferguson** were children of **William H. Ferguson**, deceased, and grandchildren of **William Ferguson**.

The 1840 Edgefield Census has **Mary Firgurson** [sic] as head of household with two males 5 and under 10, one female under 5 and one female 40 to 50. This is **Mary**, the widow of **James H. Ferguson** and their three children, **Gideon, Lewis and Elizabeth**.

The 1840 Edgefield Census also has **Rebecca Furgerson**, the widow of **William Jr.**, as a head of household.

The 1850 Edgefield Census has **Mary Ferguson**, head of household with **Gideon, Lewis and Elizabeth**.

A Bill of Partition filed 2 June 1847 in Edgefield Equity 712, **Ferguson et al. v. Corley et al.**, stated that sometime during the year 1846, **Rebecca Ferguson** married **Cullen O'Neall**. The complainants were identified as **John Ferguson, Jincey M. Clark, Kiziah Edwards** and **Anna Reeves**, children of the deceased **William Ferguson**; **Jesse Edwards**, husband of **Keziah**; **James B. Reeves**, husband of **Anna**; **Gideon, Lewis and Elizabeth Ferguson**, children of the deceased **James H. Ferguson** and grandchildren of the deceased **William Ferguson**; and **Isaiah, Martha and Abraham Ferguson**, children of the deceased **William H. Ferguson** and grandchildren of the deceased **William Ferguson**.

Answers to this Bill of Partition filed by **Rebecca, Cullen O'Neall** and **Agnes Corley** admit that the complainants are children and grandchildren of **William Ferguson** as described in the Bill of Partition.

The will of **Joseph Ferguson**, dated 22 March 1816, proved 11 November 1816, and recorded in Fairfield District Will Book 7, Page 93 on 16 May 1817, left the property of **Joseph** to his named brothers and sisters, **John Ferguson, Agnes Ferguson, Anna Reves, Keziah Ferguson, Wm H. Ferguson, J. H. Ferguson** and **Jancey M. Ferguson**. **Abraham Ferguson** was named executor. A transcript of **Joseph's** will appears below.

WILL OF JOSEPH FUGERSON

Fairfield District
And State of South Carolina

In the Name of God Amen

I **Joseph Ferguson** of the above Dist and State being in my perfect Sences [sic] and right mind do make this my will and testament (being about to Start a Journey) namely I leave my Earthly property what it has pleased God to give to me I leave to my Brothers and Sisters Namely **Keziah** and **Wm H.** and **James H.** and **Jancey M. Ferguson** the whole of my earthly property to be Equally devided [sic] among them – Excepting all my cloths I give to my brothers above mentioned & fifty dollars to **Anna Reves** & fifty dollars to **John Ferguson** & fifty dollars to **Agnes Ferguson** my sister, after this one hundred and fifty dollars is divided between my Sister **Ann Reves** and **John Ferguson** my Brother and **Agness** my Sister – then the rest or whole of my property Equal [sic], devided [sic] amgnst [sic] my above mecend [sic] Brothers and Sisters Viz **Keziah & Wm H. and J H and Jancey M Ferguson** – I want as much as possible of this property to be laid out Economically on the Education or tuetion [sic] of the above metioned [sic] Schold [sic] in I leave **Abaham Ferguson** my Executor where unto I Set my hand hand this 22 day of Mach in the year of Lord one Thousand Eight hun- [sic] and Sixteen & forheth [sic] year of the independency [sic] of the united States of a Macary [sic]

Joseph Ferguson
Proved Nov. 11, 1816
Jno Buchanan J C P
Recorded in Book No. 7
May 16, 1817 Page 93
Apt. 15 File 167

Before turning to the genealogy of certain descendants of **William Ferguson, Sr.**, that is the focus of this paper, it will be noted that both **William, Jr.** and **Joseph Ferguson** named an **Abraham** as their executor. The writer has not been successful in either case in establishing the identity of **Abraham**, the executor.

It is widely held that **William, Jr.** had a brother, **Abraham**. As noted above, **Chapman** stated in his history of Edgefield that the brothers **William** and **Abram** came to the Edgefield area following the Revolutionary War and owned the **Mickler** and **Denny** Plantations near Saluda, South Carolina. **Chapman** further stated that **Abram** predeceased **William** and that they are both buried at **Denny's Crossroad**.

The Thursday, 5 August 1824, edition of the *City Gazette*, Charleston, SC, posted the following obituary:

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“In Fairfield District, SC on the 20th ult. Mr Abraham Ferguson.”

A grave located approximately two miles north of the Hunter House outside Ridgeway, SC, the former home of **Anna Ferguson**, an heir of **Abraham Ferguson** believed to be his illegitimate daughter, contains the following inscription:

“Sacred to the memory of **Abram Ferguson** who departed this life 20th July 1824 in the 51st year of his age. The memory of the just is blessed.”

The grave of **Abram Ferguson** is adjacent to a grave marked with a stone inscribed “Sacred to the memory of **William Ferguson**.” Some speculate that this is the grave of **William Ferguson, Sr.**

An **Abraham Ferguson**, who lived near Ridgeway, SC in Fairfield District prior to his death in 1824, named in his will, dated 12 July 1824 and recorded in Fairfield District 6 December 1824, his brothers, **William** and **Jacob**, sisters, **Myriana Lumkin**, **Annes Turbevill** and **Anna** and **Keziah Edwards**, child of **William**, his brother. Thus, it appears that **Abraham** did predecease his brother, **William**, and could not have been the **Abraham** who **William, Jr.** named as his executor. This **Abraham** may be the person named executor in the will of his nephew, **Joseph Ferguson**, who died in 1816. He may well have owned a plantation in Edgefield, but it appears that he did not live there at the time of his death in 1824.

There is ample evidence of **William Jr.**'s presence in the Edgefield area as early as the 1800 census. The writer has found no evidence, other than statements by **Chapman** in his book, that **Abraham** lived in the vicinity of Edgefield.

I believe that the genealogy for certain descendants of **William Ferguson, Jr.**, son of **William Ferguson, Sr.** and **Annie Henderson**, is as follows:

William Ferguson, born between 1760 and 1770 and died 20 March 1836 or 1837, married first Unknown. The writer is exploring whether this Unknown is **Mourning Ferguson**. Their children were:

1. **John Ferguson**, died after 2 June 1847.

2. **James Hiram Ferguson**, died before 2 June 1847, married **Mary (Maynard, Culbreath or Edwards?)**, who was born about 1798 and died after 15 January 1849.

Their children were:

i. **Gideon Ferguson**, born about 1832.

ii. **Lewis Ferguson**, born about 1834.

iii. **Elizabeth Ferguson**, born about 1836.

Note: A Petition for Guardianship filed by **Lewis** and **Elizabeth** in Edgefield Equity 2562, dated 15 January 1849, asked that **Westley Culbreath**, cousin of the petitioners, be appointed their guardian. **Mary Ferguson**, mother of the petitioners, consented to the appointment, and **Westley Culbreath** accepted the appointment. There was a **Westley Culbreath**, born 1811, in Edgefield and died 1880, in Baker, GA, son of **Edward Culbreath**, born 1788, in Edgefield and died 2 June 1868, in Edgefield and **Elizabeth Maynard Culbreath**, born 1791, in Edgefield and died 4 June 1880, in Baker, GA.

3. **Jincey/Jancey M. Ferguson**, died after 2 June 1847, married Unknown **Clark**, died before 2 June 1847.

4. **Annes/Agnes Ferguson**, died after 2 June 1847, married Unknown **Corley**.

5. **Keziah Ferguson**, died after 2 June 1847, married **Jesse Edwards**, died after 2 June 1847.

6. **Anna Ferguson**, died after 2 June 1847, married **James B. Reeves**, died after 2 June 1847.

7. **William H. Ferguson**, died before 25 March 1846, married Unknown. Their children were:

i. **Isaiah Ferguson**

ii. **Martha Ferguson**

iii. **Abraham Ferguson**

8. **Joseph Ferguson**, died in 1816.

END