

# TEXAS JOURNEY

by Gerry Booth

[This is the continuation of our examination of the 1782 rolls of Sandy Run Baptist Church, looking specifically at Margaret Green Burleson, wife of Thomas Burleson.]

Margaret Green Burleson appears on the 1782 church rolls. She does not leave North Carolina, but she is the aunt to three nephews who do. In 1782 these boys were minors, and they had just lost their father. Two of Margaret's nephews journey to Texas and will become an important part of this story. Her great-nephew will become the Vice-President of the Republic of Texas.

By 1782 when the church roll was recorded, the American Revolution was coming to a close. British military operations had focused on the south because they thought many of the Southerners who were Loyalists would give them support. "Major Patrick Ferguson was appointed Inspector of Militia on May 22, 1780. His task was to march to the old Tryon County area, raise and organize Loyalist units from the Tory population of the Carolina Backcountry, and protect the left flank of Lord Cornwallis' main body at Charlotte, North Carolina."

The battle at King's Mountain began on October 7, "about 3 p.m. when the 900 Patriots (including John Crockett, father of Davy Crockett), approached the steep base of the western ridge. They formed eight detachments of 100 to 200 men each. Ferguson was unaware the Patriots had caught up to him and his 1,100 men. He was the only regular British soldier in the command, composed entirely of Loyalist Carolina militia, except for the 100 or so red-uniformed Provincials (enlisted colonials) from New York." King's Mountain was a battle "between Americans – Americans drilled to fight as regular soldiers, and Americans instinctively trained to bushwhack as guerrillas."<sup>1</sup> The battle lasted 65 minutes. The Loyalists suffered heavy losses. Theodore Roosevelt wrote, "This brilliant victory marked the turning point of the American Revolution."<sup>2</sup>

October 14, 1780, General George Washington chose Nathanael Greene to be the American commander of the Southern Department of the rebel Continental forces. The British were still occupying South Carolina when Greene took command. Greene decided that his army was weak, and it would be best to divide his army and give General Daniel Morgan command of one wing. During this time, Lord Cornwallis was planning to return to North Carolina. Having received misinformation that Morgan was going to attack the British fort of American Loyalists at Ninety Six, in western South Carolina, he ordered Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton to Ninety Six. Tarleton did not find Morgan but did receive accurate information about his location. Morgan, aware that Tarleton was in pursuit and finding the Broad River high with floodwaters, finally stopped that night at a place called "Hannah's Cowpens" a well-known grazing area for cattle. Here Morgan took a stand, and Tarleton pushed his troops until 3 a.m. Tarleton's troops had run out of food and had less than four hours of sleep before fighting Morgan's troops. The Patriots scored another victory against the British at Cowpens on January 17, 1781. The final battle where Greene managed to force Lord Cornwallis and his men to withdraw to Virginia's Yorktown peninsula, resulted in Cornwallis being overpowered. He had to surrender on October 19, 1781. It wasn't until the next year that the British removed their troops from Charleston and Savannah, finally ending the conflict. On November 30, 1782, the Americans and British signed a preliminary peace treaty. On September 3, 1783, Great Britain formally recognized the



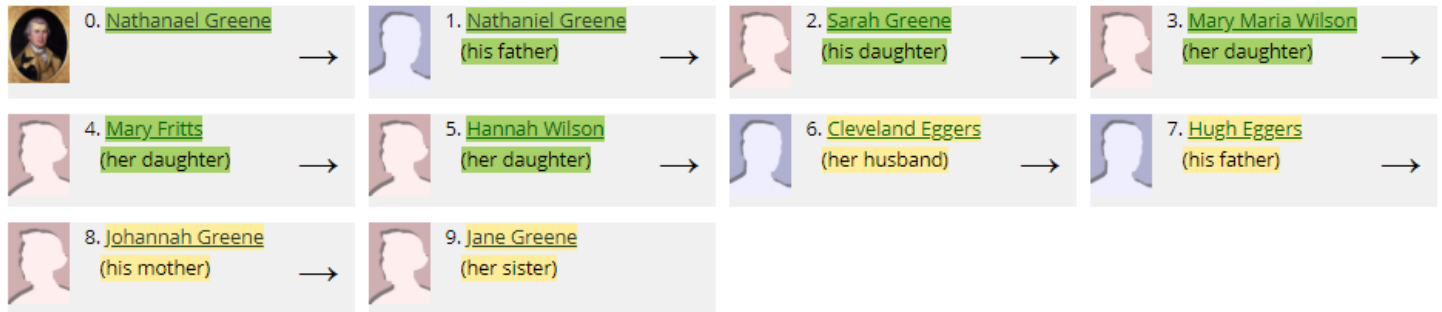
<sup>1</sup> John Watts DePeyster, *The Affair at King's Mountain, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1780* (New York and Chicago: A. S. Barnes & Co., 1880), 408.

<sup>2</sup> "Prelude to Battle," [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Kings\\_Mountain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Kings_Mountain).

independence of the United States in the Treaty of Paris.

Before I stop the meandering, I started in the last *Recollections*; I must explain the relationship between Margaret Green Burluson and Nathanael Greene. Nathanael Greene was considered to be “George Washington’s most gifted and dependable officer.”<sup>3</sup> Margaret does not have a common ancestor with the famous Nathanael Greene, but she does have a connection to him. I find it is interesting and I hope you will too.

## Nathanael Greene is 9 Degrees from Jane Burluson



To reproduce this chart of her relationship to Nathanael Greene go to Wikitree. Locate Margaret Jane (Greene) Burluson (abt. 1750–abt 1805). She is also listed as Greene-2854 (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Greene-2854>). When you have successfully located her page, scroll down to a button titled "More Genealogy Tools." This button will take you to another page where you will find a box of tools below the family tree. Look for "Relationship Finder."

Or you can use this link: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Special:Relationship> to reach the “Relationship Finder” page and then continue. Follow these steps:

1. On the “Relationship Finder” page, enter Greene-872 in the first “ID” box for Nathanael Greene.
2. In the second "ID" box, enter Greene-2854 for Margaret Jane (Greene) Burluson. I found their identification numbers by going to their pages and then to the "Relationship Finder" page where their unique number is listed in the instructions.
3. Click the button, "Find Relationship." The result page should appear quickly with the heading "No Relationship Found." Nathanael Greene and Margaret Jane Greene Burluson do not have a common ancestor within 15 generations. It has a button to look within 30 generations, but they do not have a known common ancestor in 30 generations.
4. Now, you will want to switch to the "Connection Finder" by clicking on the underlined words "the Connection Finder." It takes a little time to generate a chart like the one above.

Returning to our examination of the Sandy Run Baptist Church rolls, we can establish that Margaret Jane Greene Burluson’s nephew Shadrach Green, son of her brother, married Mary Gage, daughter of David and Esther Gage. This **DAVID GAGE** (1734-1805) was the son of David Gage, the step-brother to Daniel Shipman. Esther Gage, according to many family trees on the internet, was an Esther Shipman from New York. I have been unable to find more information about her. Shipmans were living in that area before the step-brothers Daniel and Joseph Shipman and David Gage arrived in America, so this is a possibility. Still, at this time, there is no documentation for this marriage.

According to the church rolls, Mary Gage’s brother **MOSES GAGE** (ABT. 1764-BTW. 1830-1851) was married to **SARAH “SALLY” (WOOD) GAGE** (ABT. 1765-UNK.) on October 15, 1783. Mary Gage’s sister **NANCY GAGE** (1772-1815) became the wife of **JOSEPH BURLESON** (1770-1849), who was the son of Aaron Burluson (WCW/II) and his wife **RACHEL** (1730-1800).

One of Joseph’s sister was another **ABIGAIL BURLESON** (1722-1865) who married Reuben Gage and later migrated to Texas. Their son, another **MOSES GAGE** (1796-1867), was a Baptist preacher in the Republic of Texas. When “Moses Austin got

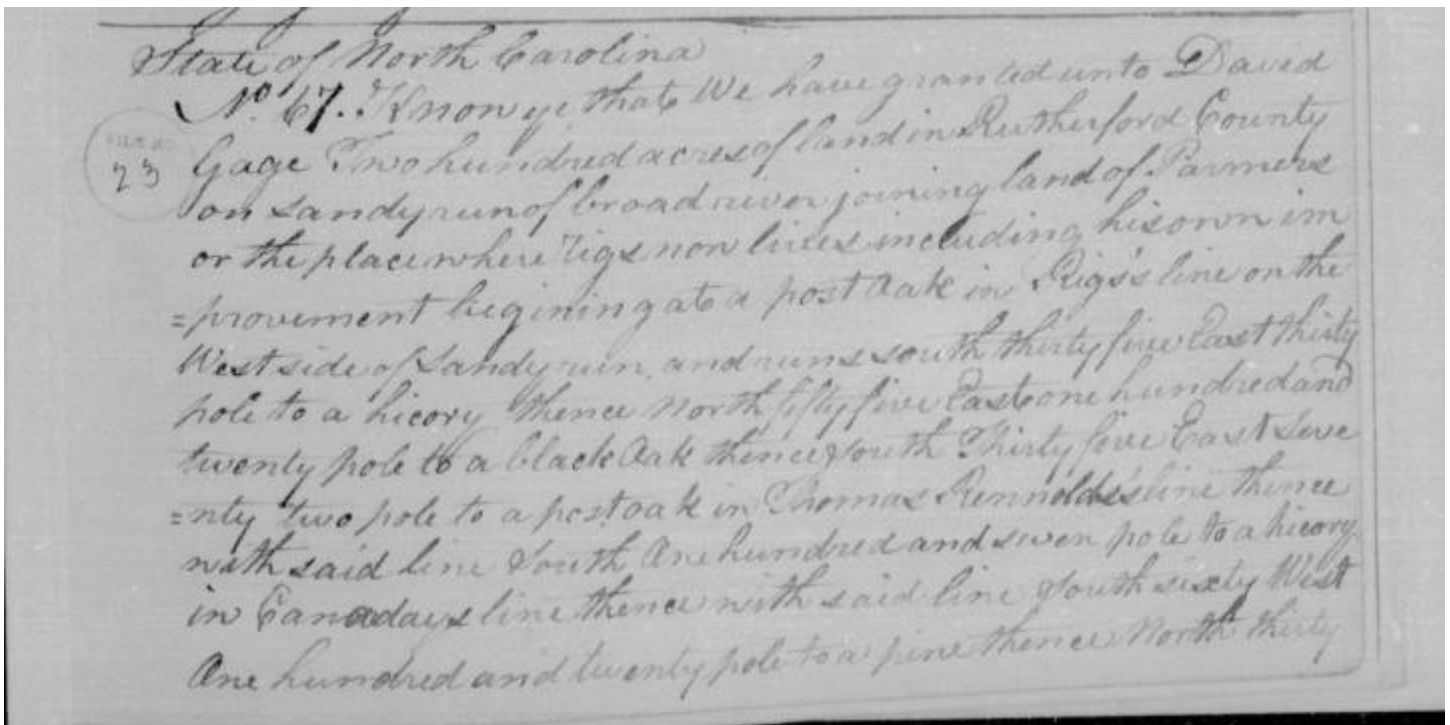
<sup>3</sup> “Biography,” Wikitree.com/wiki/Greene-872.

permission for Anglos to colonize [Texas] in 1820,” part of the agreement was that all colonists had to be Catholic. “The newcomers promised to reject both slavery and Protestantism, and intended to give up neither.”<sup>4</sup> Moses “was one of six charter members of Providence Primitive Baptist Church, organized in 1834 near the junction of Alum Creek and Colorado River. He was the first man in Texas liberated by his church to preach.”<sup>5</sup>

The following is a table to illustrate the marriages between Gage sisters and brothers with primarily the Shipmans, Greens, and Burlasons. Names listed up and down in a colored box indicate brothers and sisters. Reading across the lines shows married couples.

Children of David Gage		Children of Daniel Shipman		
Jeremiah	Gage	Lucrecey	Shipman	
Sarah Jane	Gage	Jacob	Shipman	Child of Wood
Moses	Gage			Sally Wood
		Children of Aaron Burleson		
Nancy	Gage	Joseph	Burleson	
Reuben	Gage	Abigail	Burleson	Children of Jeremiah Green
		Thomas	Burleson	Margaret Green
				Richard Green
Mary	Gage			Child of Richard Green
				Shadrach Green

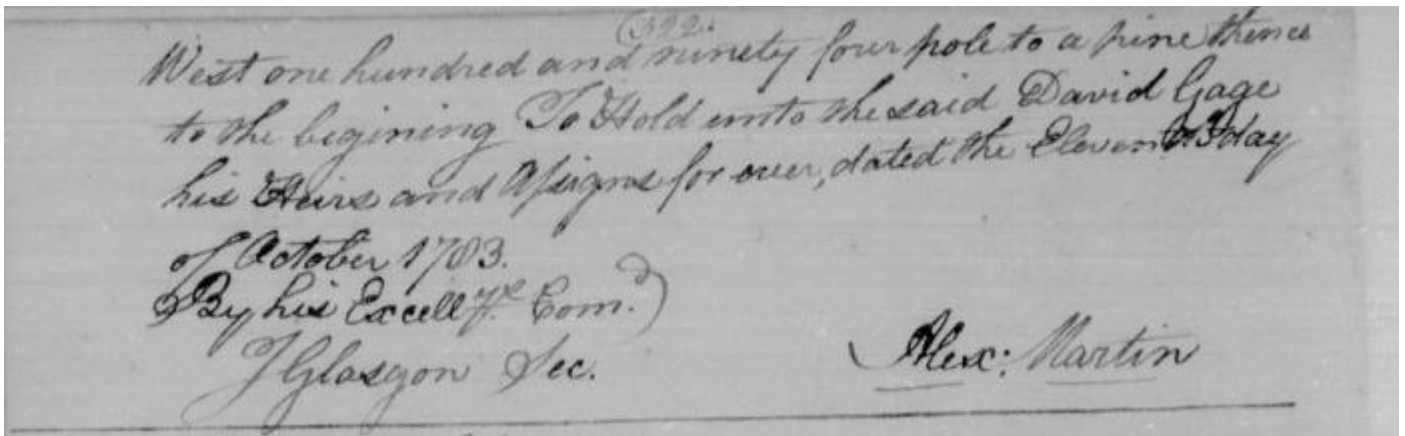
The Gage brothers and sisters listed were the children of David Gage, who had property on Sandy Run Creek but was not on the Sandy Run Baptist Church’s roll. He had located land on the west side of Sandy Run. A deed is dated October 11, 1783, and entered in Registry Deed Book A-D, Page 382. The “deed refers to ‘his own improvements’<sup>6</sup>.” This suggests that even though the deed is dated 1783, David had arrived in Rutherford County earlier.



<sup>4</sup> Francis Jennings, *The Founders of America From the Earliest Migrations to the Present*, (Norton, 1993) 365

<sup>5</sup> Dorothy Burns Peterson, Herbert C III Banks, *Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Daughters of Republic of Texas – Volume 1* (Paducah Kentucky, Turner Publishing Company, 1995) 103.

<sup>6</sup> *BFA Bulletin*, 1997.



West one hundred and ninety four pole to a pine thence  
to the beginning To Hold unto the said David Gage  
his heirs and assigns for ever, dated the Eleventh Day  
of October 1703.  
By his Excell<sup>ty</sup> Com.  
Glasgow Sec.

Alex: Martin

<http://www.nclandgrants.com/grant/?mars=12.14.108.23&qid=530196&rn=3>

David had another daughter; whose name was **SARAH JANE GAGE** (ABT. 1747–1765). At this time there were three women named Sarah, who were about the same age and living in the same area. These Sarahs have caused considerable confusion for many genealogists. Sarah Jane Gage was one of the women. The other two Sarahs were Sarah McMinn and Sarah Kuykendall. Robert McMinn, Daniel Shipman, and Edward Shipman have been associated with women named Sarah, but the question is which Sarah and what was the relationship?

We know that **JACOB SHIPMAN** (1744-1794) married Sarah in Rutherford County. Did he marry Sarah Jane Gage, Sarah McMinn, or Sarah Kuykendall? He married two Sarah's. His first marriage about 1765 in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, was to Sarah Jane Gage. It is thought that Sarah Gage died just one month after their marriage. The next question is, who was his second wife, Sarah McMinn or Sarah Kuykendall? John Hoyle Burleson wrote an article for *Recollections* on this subject that I recommend you read. It is available at:

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=163722330466118&story\\_fbid=209392612565756](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=163722330466118&story_fbid=209392612565756)

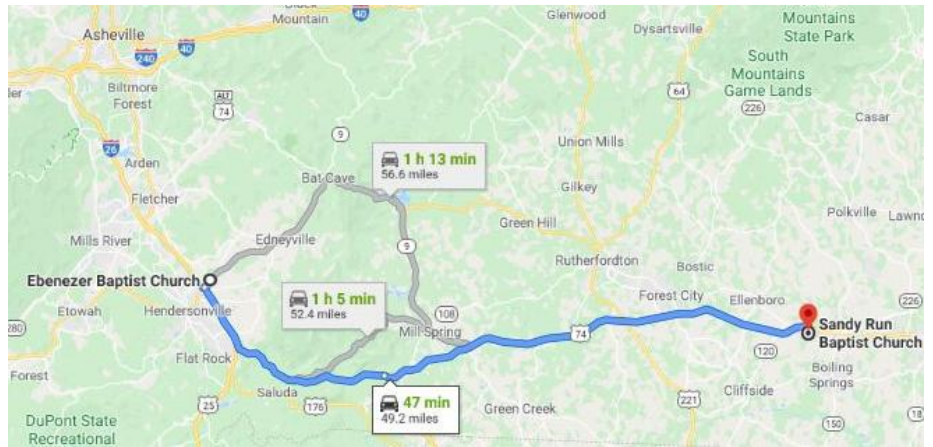
In addition to this proof, The Barefoot Genealogist, Christa Cowan, who is related to the Shipmans, did a presentation for Ancestry on this exact subject. At 18:55 minutes into the youtube video, she shows how she proved who Jacob Shipman's second wife was. The link to view this is:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9YdAGPnBew&t=4s>

Jacob's second marriage was to **SARAH KUYKENDALL** (ABT. 1749–AFT. 1830), the daughter of **ABRAHAM KUYKENDALL** (1719–1812). She and Jacob were the parents of **ELIZABETH SHIPMAN** (1770-ABT. 1815-1830) who married **JAMES BURLESON** (1775–1836). Jacob Shipman died at the age of fifty. His wife later married George Saling, and she became known as "Old Aunt Saling" after Daniel Shipman wrote about her in *Frontier Life*.

That leaves Sarah Jane McMinn (ABT. 1749-ABT. 1830). Sarah was the daughter of **ABRAHAM McMINN** (1719-1778) and **ELIZABETH VAN ZANDT** (1735-1800). Her spouse is unknown. Her brother was **ROBERT McMINN** (ABT. 1750-ABT. 1798), and his wife was **JANE KUYKENDALL McMINN** (ABT. 1751-ABT. 1834). Sarah Jane McMinn's sister was **MARY ELIZABETH McMINN** (ABT. 1752-ABT. 1808), who married **DANIEL SHIPMAN, JR.** (ABT. 1747-ABT. 1831). This Daniel Shipman was the brother to Jacob Shipman.



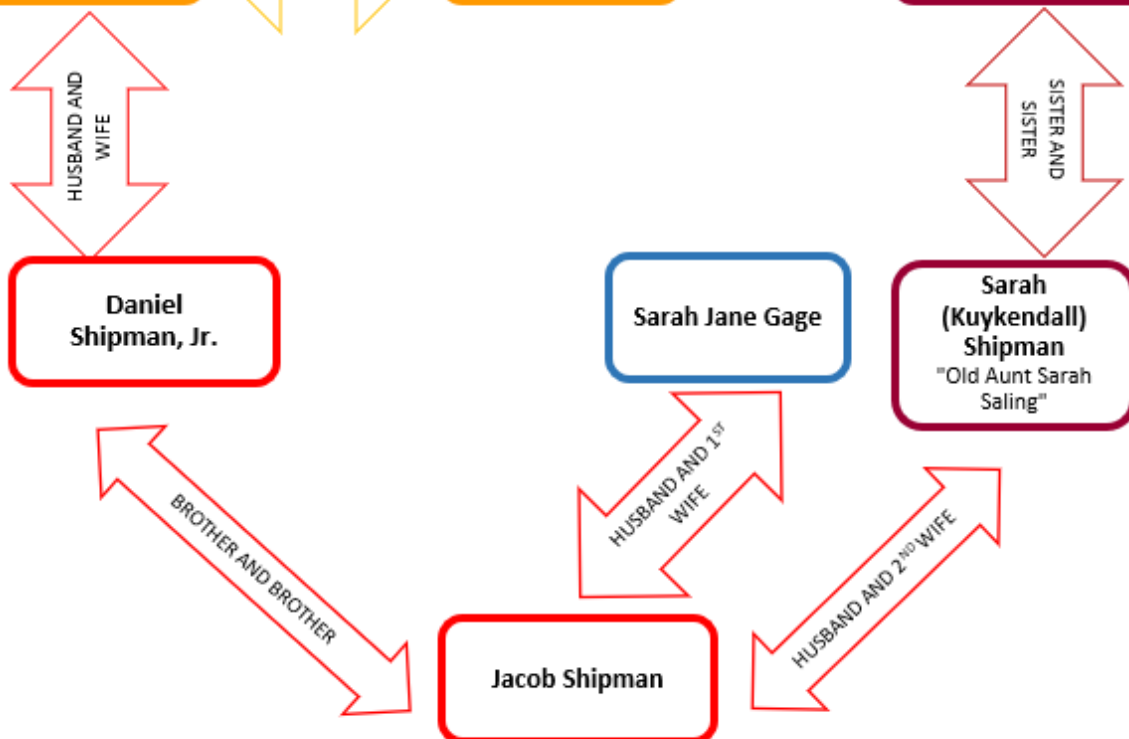
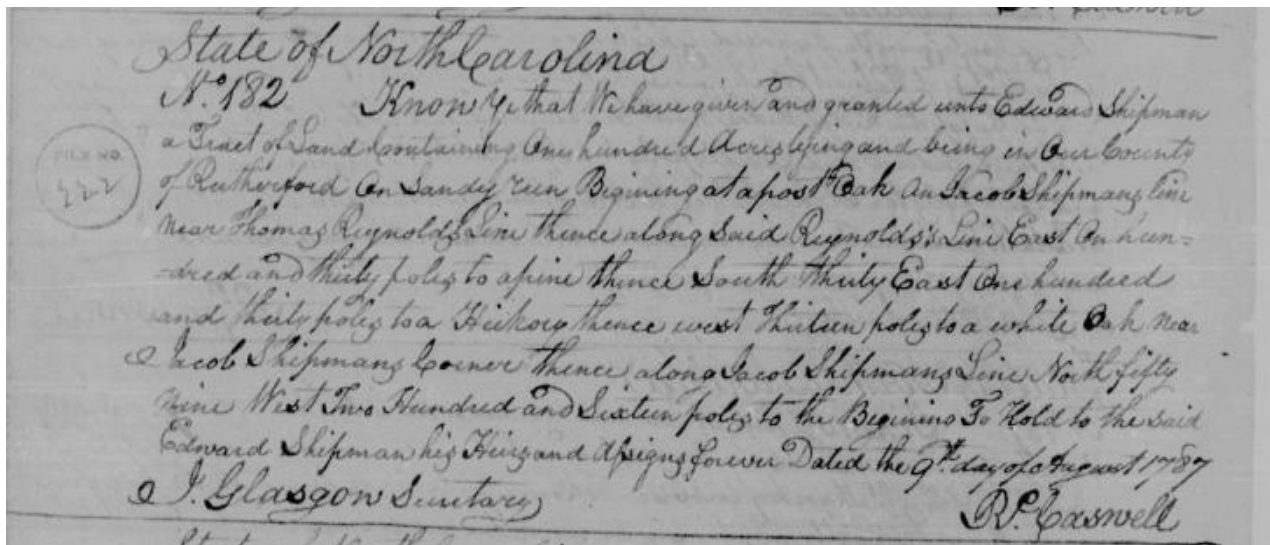
The McMinnns were another family closely tied to the Shipmans. Jacob Shipman has a tombstone in the Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery in Henderson County, North Carolina, just south of Asheville. Jacob enlisted in Quinn's Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment in the American Revolution. The Abraham Kuykendall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, named for Jacob's father-in-law, placed a marker in the church cemetery for Jacob in 2003. Numerous McMinn graves surround this grave. The story of his burial was that he died in the Sandy Run area, where he owned land. He had two sons living in Henderson County. The Broad River was swollen, so it took three days to take him to Henderson to bury him. It is not known if he is buried there. When Jacob died in November 1794, Ebenezer Baptist Church had not yet been established.



Jacob Shipman was my sixth great uncle.

Daniel Jr. and Jacob had a brother named Edward. **EDWARD SHIPMAN** (ABT. 1742-1814), my fifth great-grandfather, served in the American Revolution as a private. In 1977, Bill Ault of Amarillo wrote, "Our South Carolina Edward Shipman entered the fray when the situation was the darkest and the issue was in doubt. British generals Clinton and Cornwallis had just conquered Charlestown, 12 May 1780." Unlike his brother Jacob, Edward has no gravesite. He was on the Sandy Run Church roll, and he owned property on Sandy Run Creek. Edward married **ELIZABETH AUSTIN MERRILL** (1747-1790). They were the parents of **MOSES SHIPMAN** (1774-1938).

Moses Shipman, my fourth great grandfather, was an Old Three Hundred. The first 297 families that settled in Stephen F. Austin's first colony in Texas are referred to as The Old Three Hundred. It is Moses' journey along with several members of his extended family that we will follow. One of Moses' sons was **DANIEL SHIPMAN** (1801-1881). He too, was an Old Three Hundred. Daniel was 21 years old when the family crossed the Red River, and therefore he was eligible to receive a grant. Daniel is probably best known to genealogist for his book *Frontier Life in Texas*.



<http://www.nclandgrants.com/grant/?mars=12.14.108.223&qid=526984&rn=20>

The booklet, *The Sandy Run Settlement and Mooresboro* has the following listings for the Shipmans:

**SHIPMON, Daniel	1782	Lt. of Militia in Tryon Co. 1770
*Edward	1782	brother of Jacob
*Jacob	1782	m. Sarah
Christian	1782	
John	1804	1800 Rutherford Co. Census
Pheby	1782, 1804	
Sarah	1782, 1804	
Thomas	1782	mentioned in 1792

<https://archive.org/details/sandyrunsettleme00depr/page/n1/mode/2up>

We have examined Daniel, Edward, and Jacob. I do not know to whom Christian and John refer. These are common male Shipman names, but they are not Daniel's children. They appear to be related to Daniel in some way because of the listing under his name. Sarah and Thomas may refer to his daughter Sarah who married Thomas Harrington, who we have examined. Another possibility is that the Sarah and John listed may be Edward's wife Sara and her son John. Pheby is the name of one of Daniel's daughters, and it is the name of his second wife.

Since we are focusing mainly on the two step-brothers, David Gage and Daniel Shipman, who marry two Burleson sisters, Elizabeth and Abigail, we will return to Daniel's will to complete our examination of Daniel's family.

**ANNA SHIPMAN** (1747–1818) married **ROBERT ABEL LEE** (1745-1815). He was named one of the executors for the will of Daniel Shipman, Anna's father. Robert owned land on Lee's Creek of Sandy Run. Anna and Robert Lee had a son named **DANIEL LEE** (1785–1863) who married Anna's sister, Rebecca's daughter, **HANNAH FRANCISCO/CISCO** (1785-1863). In other words, he married his cousin.

State of North Carolina  
No. 1315 Know ye that we have granted unto Robert Lee one  
hundred and fifty acres of land in Rutherford County on  
Lee Creek of Sandy Run beginning at a red oak in his  
own line thence North Sixty poles to a post oak in John  
Jones's line thence South Eighty four East two hundred  
and twenty poles to a pine thence South one hundred and  
forty poles to a Stake, thence West one hundred poles to a  
pine his own corner, thence North <sup>thirteen hundred forty</sup> seven poles to a Stake  
in his own line, thence to the Beginning to hold to the  
said Robert Lee his heirs and assigns for ever State the

<http://www.nclandgrants.com/grant/?mars=12.14.108.1438&qid=527408&rn=58>

**LUCRECEY GAGE** (1752–1839) called Lucy, married **JEREMIAH GAGE** (1752–BEF. 1790) a brother to Sarah Jane Gage who was Jacob Shipman's first wife. Robert Jeremiah Gage does not appear on the 1790 census and therefore is presumed to have died before 1790, leaving Lucy a widow. In 1807, Lucy joined the Shipmans and Burlesons and left North Carolina.

**PHOEBE "FEEBY" CRAWFORD** (1755–1766) married Isaac Crawford (1758–1833), the brother of Moses Crawford. Moses Crawford was a nephew of Daniel Shipman's wife, Elizabeth Burleson. Elizabeth's sister married Thomas Crawford.

**REBECCA SISCO** (1754–1817) married Jacob Francisco/Sisco (1755–1816), son of John Francisco. Jacob was a Revolutionary War Veteran. Rebecca Sisco had a daughter, Hannah (1785–1871), who married Daniel Lee (1785–1863), Robert and Anna (Shipman) Lee's son. In addition to her daughter, she had six sons, one of whom was Daniel Francisco. This son may have been named in honor of Rebecca's father, Daniel Shipman. Paul Sisco, one of the speakers at the last BFRG Family Reunion and an expert on DNA, is a direct descendant of Jacob and Rebecca (Shipman) Sisco. He has stated that Jacob and Rebecca were married in the Sandy Run Baptist Church.

**MARY JANE SHIPMAN** (ABT. 1756- ) was thought to have married either Richard or Moses Johnson. We know from Daniel's will that she married a Johnson, but there is confusion over which Johnson.

**TEMPERANCE SHIPMAN** (1792–1850) was the daughter of Daniel Shipman and his second wife, **PHOEBE STATON** (1720–1820). Temperance married **WILLIAM M. BABB** (1789–1842). One of her descendants is Joe Babb. Joe Babb is an attorney in Austin, Texas. In fact, he is my attorney! Joe has been our family attorney and friend for years, but it wasn't until just a few months ago I learned that we had a set of common grandparents.

Daniel Shipman's last son was **DAVID WALDEN SHIPMAN** (1794–1850) who married Francis "Fanny" Hale.

After looking at the Gages and the Shipmans, we have found several family members who will leave North Carolina and head west. Even though Thomas and Margaret Burleson are the only Burlesons listed on the church rolls in 1782, we do know more about the rest of the family, some who will join the Shipmans and Gages in their move west.

We know that Joseph married Nancy Gage. We know that Joseph was one of the minor nephews of Thomas and Margaret Burleson. We also know about his experience in the American Revolution from the writings of Anne Royall, the first professional woman journalist. Anne Royall was a boarder at Joseph's public house in Moulton, Alabama. She wrote about Joseph in her book *Letters from Alabama*, and she based her main character on Joseph for her book, *The Tennessean*.

In 1782, Joseph was with his mother, Rachel, and his younger siblings. The revolutionary war had moved south. "Meantime her [Rachel] oldest son [John], not 14, and Joseph, (of whom I learned the story,) about 12 years old, would sally forth with gun on shoulder, sometimes alone, but often with others of their own age, to watch the motions of the Indians; and whenever they saw them approach, would hasten to apprise their parents. These little heroes would pass whole days in the woods, at all seasons, almost naked, and without tasting food, for though they saw plenty of game, there were afraid to shoot lest the report of the gun might betray them to the Indians."

We have looked at a few of the families on the 1782 rolls of the Sandy Run Baptist Church, concentrating on the Burlesons, Gages and Shipmans for two reasons. First, to gain an appreciation of the bonds that exist between these



families, we looked at the intermarriages between them which helped to solidify them into one large family. Second, Sandy Run was where our Shipman, Gage, and Burleson families lived during the time of the American Revolutionary War. Unless you live in North Carolina, or unless someone has told you about Sandy Run Baptist Church as Helen Kelso told me, you would not realize how much of our family history is rooted in this little community, on this little creek, in North Carolina. This was the beginning place for the great journey west for many of our family members. It is the older family members, settled on the banks of Sandy Run, who fought for the colonies to win independence in order to form a new nation and it will be their descendants who in 1782 are just children or very young adults that will leave Sandy Run to journey to a new land. Like their parents before them, they will fight for independence and form a new nation, the Republic of Texas.