

TEXAS JOURNEY

In the first Texas Journey, I extended an invitation to everyone to contribute to our journey. "Your contributions to this collection of stories are welcomed. (Send stories to bfrqinfo@gmail.com.)". Paul Sisco did. He has written this article to share some of his research on the family.

Gerry Booth

A Tale of Two Churches: Sandy Run (NC) to Spring Creek (TN)

Paul Hardeman Sisco, Jr.

Gerry Booth, Susanne Bergum, and I, the authors of recent issues of **TEXAS JOURNEY** are all connected to the **Burleson** family the same way. We are descendants of three different children of Daniel Shipman, Sr., and Elizabeth **Burleson**. But the family connections are more complicated than simple descent from the same ancestors. Our ancestors lived close to each other, went to church together, and intermarried. After the Revolutionary War, many of the **Burlesons**, Shipmans, Gages, and Francisco/Siscos migrated from western North Carolina first to Warren County, KY, and then to Jackson County, TN. We can follow some of this migration in the church minutes of two Baptist Churches, the Sandy Run Baptist Church of Mooresboro, NC, and the Spring Creek Baptist Church of Jackson County, TN.

Here's how Gerry Booth, Susanne Bergum, and I are descended from Daniel Shipman and Elizabeth Burleson. Susanne and I are 6th cousins. Gerry and I are 6th cousins once removed.

Daniel Shipman and Elizabeth Burleson

Edward Shipman	Hannah (Anna) Shipman (Lee)	Rebecca Shipman (Francisco/Sisco)
Moses Shipman	Isaac Burleson Lee	John Andrew Sisco
Christiana Reed Shipman (Owens)	Green Lee	William Walker Sisco
Mary Owens (Gilchrease)	William Green Lee	John Thomas Sisco
John Anthony Gilchrease	Russell Lee	Jacob Andrew Sisco
Lilie Ebb Gilchrease (Wright)	William Grant Lee	Paul Hardeman Sisco, Sr.
Geraldine Wright (Love)	Susanne Lee (Bergum)	Paul Hardeman Sisco, Jr.
Geraldine Ebb Love (Booth)		

For my contribution to the story of the westward migration of the **Burleson** family, I decided to focus on the history of **Spring Creek Baptist Church of Jackson County, TN**. Gerry Booth, in her articles for the **Texas Journey** chronicles, did a magnificent job of relating the history of the Sandy Run Baptist Church of Rutherford (now Cleveland) County, NC. We will discover that some of the same families can be found on the church roles of the Spring Creek Baptist Church of Jackson County, Tennessee. I also thought it would be interesting to discuss the role of religion in the life of those families. If you move to a rural community in Tennessee, Arkansas or Texas today, one of the first questions your new neighbors will ask you is "What church do you belong to?" Your church affiliation helps to define your status in the community. For this article I made extensive use of the Minutes of The Spring Creek Baptist Church of Jackson County, Tennessee, 1802-1858, available on-line at: http://www.ajlambert.com/history/hst_scbcm.pdf, and on the description of the religious practices of the Pilgrim's Rest Primitive Baptist Church of Covington, Alabama, available on-line at: <http://files.usgwarchives.net/al/covington/churches/pilgrimbap1.txt>

My French Huguenot Francisco/Sisco/Cisco Family

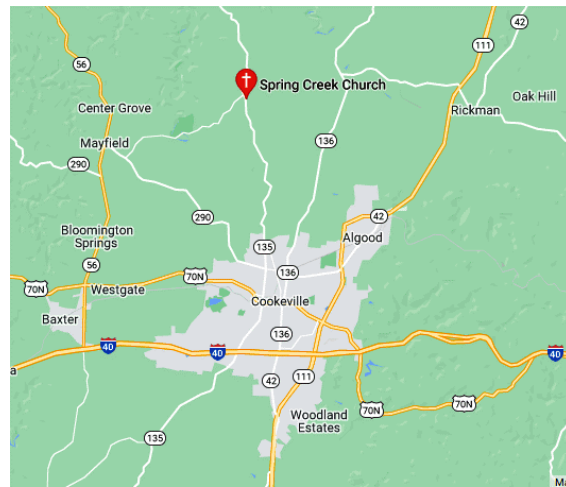
The Francisco family story is complicated. One problem is that there are several different unrelated Francisco, Sisco, and Cisco families in North America. It took analysis of the DNA of the Y

chromosome of almost 70 men to begin to figure out how many families there are and who belongs to each family. The family that we will talk about here is mine, a Francisco family with a French Huguenot origin. Huguenots were French Protestants, mostly Calvinist in theology. They were often the victims in bitter conflicts between French Catholics and Protestants in the 1500's and 1600's. To escape persecution, hundreds of thousands of Huguenots left France for other countries where Calvinists could practice their religion freely. **The northern branch** of my family traces back to a John/Jan Francisco, a French Huguenot who fled from France to the Netherlands and married Elizabeth, a Dutch girl who belonged to the Calvinist Dutch Reformed Church. John and Elizabeth moved from the Netherlands to the Newark, NJ, area, where he died in 1733. They have many descendants in New Jersey, New York, and points west, particularly Ohio and Michigan. Excellent baptismal, marriage, and funeral records of this branch of the family are available from Dutch Reformed Church records. The surname is spelled Francisco, Fran Sisco, Sisco, or Cisco. One subgroup of **the southern branch** of the family is related to the **Burlesons**. This subgroup includes the descendants of **Jacob Francisco, Sr. (b. ~1762 NC)** and his wife **Rebecca Shipman Francisco**. Rebecca Shipman's mother was born Elizabeth Burleson. Jacob's father was a John Francisco who is on the Anson County, NC, tax list in 1763. We do not know where or when this John Francisco was born, but the Y-DNA of his descendants matches the Y-DNA of descendants of the northern Franciscos, so we know that John of Anson County, NC, belonged to the same French Huguenot family as the northern Franciscos. John, Sr. and his two sons John, Jr. (b. ~1760 NC), and Jacob (b. ~ 1762 NC) are listed along with their families in a 1787 census of Burke County, NC. By that time Jacob and Rebecca are married and have one daughter, Hannah Francisco, b. 1785. According to our late family historian Shirley Wicker Hendrix, Jacob Francisco and Rebecca Shipman were married in the Sandy Run Baptist church in 1784. In the 1790 census of Rutherford County, NC, Jacob and Rebecca along with Jacob's brother John Sisco, Jr. are living close to Edward Shipman, Rebecca's older brother. But by 1802 Jacob and Rebecca are in Jackson County, TN, where they were founding members of the Spring Creek Baptist Church. So sometime in the 1790's they moved from NC to TN. Who else is associated with Spring Creek Baptist Church of Jackson County, TN, and what do the church minutes tell us about families who lived in that area in the early 1800's?

Spring Creek Baptist Church
(Originally Twelve Corners Baptist Church)
Jackson County, TN
Organized 1802



Spring Creek (Twelve Corners) Baptist Church in 1913 and in 2002



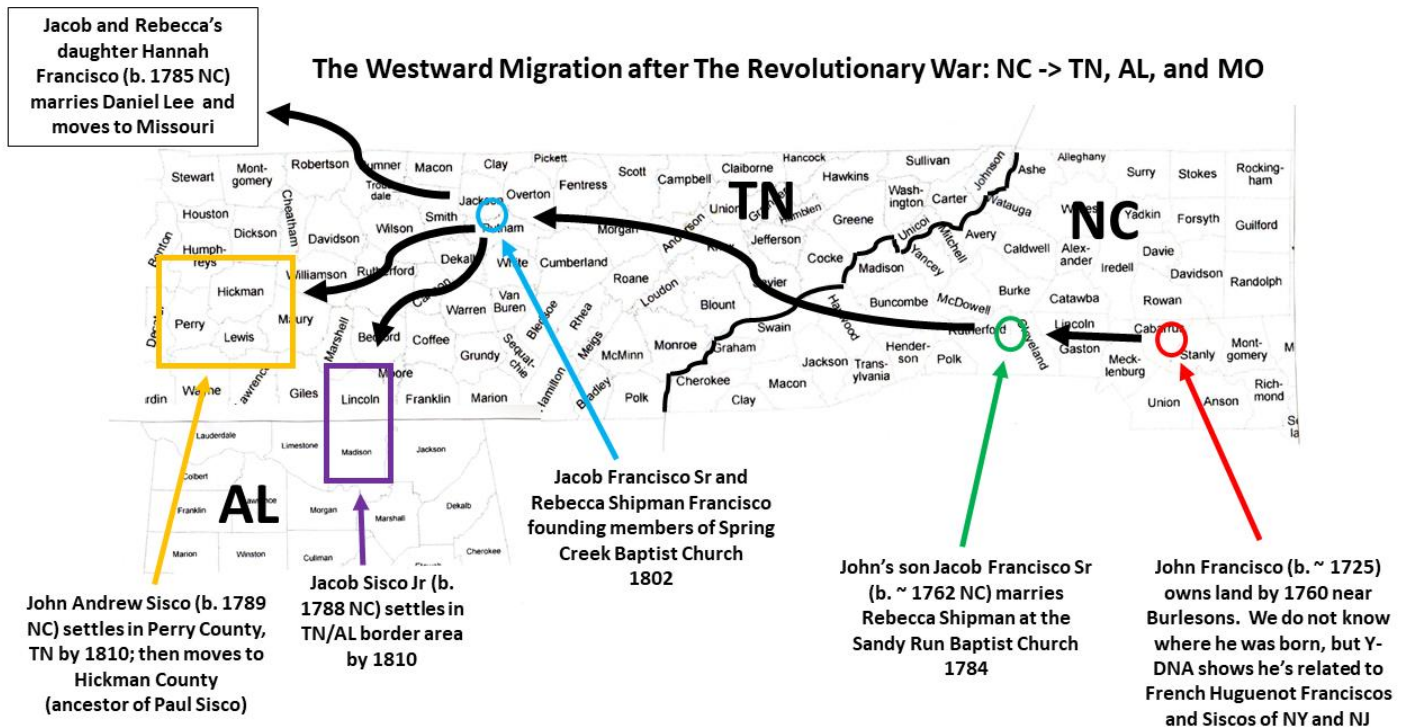
Location of Spring Creek Baptist Church 8 miles north of Cookeville, TN



The plaque in front of the modern church building.

Sandy Run to Spring Creek and Beyond

The Odyssey of Jacob and Rebecca Shipman Francisco



Excerpts from Spring Creek Baptist Church Minutes

- July 7, 1802:** Church founded. Founding members include:
Jacob and Rebecca Francisco [also spelled Sisco in later minutes – ancestors of Paul Sisco]
Mary, Elizabeth, and Nancy **Burlison**
- Oct. 9, 1802:** Rachael **Burlisson** received as a member by letter
- Nov. 13, 1802:** Congregation demands church record from Jacob Sisco and “enquires concerning reports”
- Dec. 11, 1802:** Congregation decides to build a meeting house.
- Apr. 16, 1803:** Moses and Mary Shipman received as a member by letter. [Moses is a son of Edward Shipman and ancestor of Gerry Booth.]
Moses Shipman appointed to labor with [his uncle] Jacob Sisco about his sin of drunkenness.
Congregation agrees to pay Daniel Shipman [Jr.] \$3.00 to “hew down our meeting house”.
- July 16, 1803:** Jacob Sisco excommunicated.
- Sept. 17, 1803:** Two church members appointed to “go to Sister Rebecca Scisco to labour with her concerning some reports and concerning the motions of her mind which she has made known.”
Moses and Mary Shipman dismissed by letter.
- Jan. 3, 1804:** Rebecca Francisco excluded for “repeatedly going in evil company after being reproved.”
- Sept. 3, 1804:** List of the 56 church members includes Elizabeth, Mary, Nancy, and Rachael **Burlison**.
- Sept. 5, 1805:** List of the 89 church members includes Elizabeth, Mary, Nancy, and Rachael **Burlison** along with Reuben and Abigail Gage.
- Sept. 6, 1806:** List of the 72 church members includes Elizabeth, Nancy, and Rachael Burlison. [Has Mary gotten married? No record of her leaving the church.] Reuben and Abigail Gage also members.
- Nov. 1, 1806:** Elizabeth and Rachael Burlison apply for “letters of dismission”.
- Sept. 3, 1814:** This is the next list of church members in the minutes. No Burlisons or Gages are members.

What can we learn from these minutes? First of all, it's clear that the association of our family with this congregation was short, lasting only the first decade of the 19th century. Moses and Mary Shipman were headed west, eventually to Texas, as Gerry Booth will relate in another edition of the **Texas Journey**. Jacob and Rebecca Sisco's marriage was in trouble. He was drinking and she was having an affair with a man with the surname of Gage. Rebecca had a son in 1803 whom she named Daniel Francisco after her father Daniel Shipman. At the age of 10 Daniel Francisco left home in the middle of the night carrying only a shotgun and made his way to Illinois, where he became a successful farmer with several children. The Y chromosome of male Francisco descendants of Daniel matches the Y chromosome of men named "Gage." That's how we found out who was Rebecca's "evil company" that got her excommunicated from the church in 1803. We think Jacob and Rebecca eventually moved to northern Alabama with their oldest son Jacob Sisco, Jr., where they died about 1816.

Jacob and Rebecca's oldest children, Hannah (b. 1785), Jacob, Jr. (b. 1788) and John Andrew (b. 1789), all born in North Carolina, had successful lives. John Andrew, my g-g-g-grandfather, married well, a tall woman named Phoebe Turner, and they were in Perry County, TN, by 1810. They had a large farm with slaves and became wealthy. Family oral history relates that Phoebe buried a trunk full of gold on the family farm in Hickman County to hide it from the Yankees. No one has ever found it, although I've talked to relatives who have combed the farm with metal detectors.