

THE SUTTLE FAMILY PIONEERS IN COUNTY

Hundreds of Descendants of Isaac Suttle, Revolutionary Patriot, Reside in Forest City and Surrounding Community.

By CLARENCE GRIFFIN.

Few men have left as indelible imprint on the pages of Western North Carolina history, in the matter of a long line of worthy descendants, as have Isaac and George Suttle. Today there are hundreds of families in Forest City and Rutherford county, as well as scores elsewhere, who trace their ancestry to these two pioneer settlers. The Blantons, Flacks, Harrills, Bostics, Baxters, Moores, Carpenters, Camps, Griffins and many other families are closely connected through their relation to George Suttle, pioneer Rutherford planter. There is possibly more than a thousand descendants who are eligible for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of American Revolution through the Suttle line.

Revolutionary Patriot.

Isaac Suttle was born in Virginia,

probably about 1740. He was a soldier in the Revolution, and saw service both in the Virginia State militia and in the Continental line. His son, George Suttle, was also a soldier in the Revolution, it is said, but the writer has been unable to establish this as a fact, and nothing of importance bearing on his record as a Patriot soldier has been found in the archives of the War Department or Bureau of Pensions, to substantiate the statement, yet the Revolutionary records of those two departments are far from complete.

George Suttle came to Rutherford county shortly after the Revolution, and settled near the present "Carpenter" brick house place. He purchased three tracts of land, between 1787 and 1803, on Floyd's Creek, lying in the present townships of Sulphur Springs and High Shoals. The first tract of land was purchased May 14, 1787, from Elizabeth Thomasson. The consideration was thirty-five pounds (about \$85.00) for which Mrs. Thomasson agreed to sell "150 acres in the old field where John Thomasson 'usted to live,' lying and being on both sides of Rocky Creek of Floyd's Creek". An adjoining tract of 350 acres was purchased by George Suttle on March 1, 1803, for \$500, and is described as "300 acres granted to William Beam by the state of North Carolina and since granted to Thomas Goode, together with a part of a 100 acre tract survey granted to said Goode bearing the date of the 16th day of December, 1799, containing 350 acres, including improvements." On the 22nd of March, 1803, Suttle purchased another tract of land from Goode, "lying and being on both sides of Floyd's Creek which Thomas Goode purchased at a Sheriff's sale." This last tract contained 114 acres, for which \$200 was paid. The three purchases brought his total holdings to 614 acres, all of which adjoined, and lay in the two townships already mentioned. Much of this land was in cultivation, and while in his possession he cleared more of it and planted it. At one time he owned nearly fifty slaves, which necessitated a large area of land in cultivation to maintain them.

Builds "Carpenter" Brick House.
About 1808 George Suttle built what is erroneously called the Carpenter Brick House. This house is on one of the three tracts of land purchased by him, and is located just across the township line in Sulphur Springs township, about

three miles south of Harris. When it was built, and for many years afterwards, it was considered one of the most magnificent structures in the county. Of two stories, with large, well-constructed rooms, the house presents a fine example of the old planters' homes of the antebellum south. The house has been in use over a century, and is yet in good condition for another two hundred years. This is one of the oldest houses now standing in Rutherford county, and there are only four others in Rutherford that can approach its age within twenty-five years. After the death of George Suttle in 1816 the house, together with the lands, passed to his wife, and upon her death the property was sold and the proceeds divided among his children. In this manner the house passed from the Suttle family, being owned for a time by Tennessee Carpenter, from whom it takes its present name.

George Suttle died about March, 1816. His will follows:
Will of George Suttle.
"In The Name of God, Amen!
"I, George Suttle, of the county of Rutherford, being at present very sick and weak of body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks to Almighty God, calling to mind the mortality of my body, knowing that it is appointed for all men to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, revoking all others heretofore made by me.
"First, principally, I resign my soul to God who gave it, trusting in his eternal goodness. My body I commit to the earth to be buried decently at the discretion of my executors and as to the worldly goods that it has pleased God to bless me with in this life I give and dispose of in the following manner:
"First, my will is that all my just debts be paid.
"Secondly, I give and bequeath to my well beloved wife, Nancy Suttle, Dassa, a negro woman, Frank and Matilda, her two children, also Ned, a negro boy, to be by her held and enjoyed in her own right during his natural life, and after her decease the said negroes, with their increase, if any, to be equally divided among my children. My will further is that all my live stock of every description that I shall die possessed, shall be and remain in the possession of my wife to be used toward the support of my family during their minority and for the benefit of the whole during their continuance together, unless in the opinion of my wife and my executors there is or should be more than necessary for their support, then and in that case I would advise or rather my will is that the surplus be disposed of to the best advantage and equally divided among my children. Further, as respecting my household furniture and implements of husbandry and working tools of every description, including the whole of my personal estate, (not otherwise disposed of) my will is that it be and remain in the possession of my wife to be used for the support and maintenance of my children during their minority or continuance together. And further, my will is that if any of my sons or daughters, after arriving at full age, should marry or separate themselves from the family that then and in that case that each of my children shall receive a bed and furniture of value or any other article that in the opinion of my said wife and executors can be spared out of the common stock and they dispose of to be accounted for in their distributive share.
"My will further is that the residue of my negroes, viz: Winny, Violet, Ben, Lewis, Jacob, Jack, Jerry, Jenny, Harry, Harriet, Suckey, Celia, Davie, Lucy and their increase, if any, shall at the expiration of three years and six months from date, which will be the first day of August, 1819, be valued by five judicious men of good repute, who is to be nominated by the county court of Rutherford at the July term, im-

mediately preceding the aforesaid day of August, and providing the whole of them does not attend on the day or days set apart for the purpose that those who of that number do attend shall supply the number absent by the men of their own choice, having respect to their character as aforesaid—that the real value they ascertained of my said negroes shall be divided into lot agreeable to the number of my children, to wit: William Byars Suttle, Sarah, Elizabeth, Joseph, Benjamin, Nancy, George, Susannah and John Suttle,—that in apportioning the said lots care shall be taken to make each lot as equal as possible, consistent with justice and humanity, which said lottery shall be conducted in an open and fair manner in the presence of the said commissioners and my executors—that immediately on the aforesaid division taking place, those of my children who are of full age will be entitled to their distributive share of said negroes, agreeable to said agreement, liable to the demand of the legacies if there should be any excess in those to be divided, and to be accounted for in the manner that my executors shall deem most advisable, and for these my will is that until the expiration of the term aforesaid my negroes shall be continued in the possession of my wife and employed for the benefit of the whole in providing what is necessary for their subsistence.
"And further, my will is that my said wife remain in possession of the whole of my buildings, orchard, land, instruments and improvements that I died possessed of to be used and cultivated during her natural life for the support of herself and such of my children as shall continue to live with her and under her care and as respects that portion of my estate that shall fall to the lot of my children who are under age particularly three negroes I leave it with my dear wife and my executors to manage according to their discretion in hiring or employing it on the premises toward the maintenance of the family, and further and finally my will is that after the death of my said wife that the whole of my lands with all the appurtenances thereto with every other species of my property of whatever description not otherwise disposed of shall be sold in an open and fair manner, and equally divided among my children, so as to make the whole of their distribution shares equal, and in order that this my last will, be duly executed I nominate and appoint my loving and dutiful son, William B. Suttle, and my trusty friends, William McKenny and George McKenny to be sole executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 1st day of February, 1816."
GEORGE SUTTLE,
"Signed, Sealed and Acknowledged in the presence of us, the subscribing witnesses.
JONATHAN HAMPTON,
"A. MILLER."

George Suttle was survived by the following children:
William B. Suttle, Joseph Suttle, Benjamin F. Suttle, Elizabeth Suttle, George W. Suttle, John B. Suttle, Sarah Suttle, Susan Suttle and Nancy Suttle.
Elizabeth, the oldest daughter, married William Lewis Griffin in 1820. He was register of deeds for eighteen years, and was taken from office by the Reconstruction acts of 1868. He furnished three sons to the Confederacy, two of whom did not return. The present Griffin family in Rutherford is descended from L. W. Griffin, the surviving son of this union. The Moores, Daniels, Carrols and Greens are descendants of children of W. L. and Elizabeth Suttle Griffin.
Sarah, married Aaron Camp, Susan a Kelly and Nancy married a Baxter. Benjamin Suttle also married Sarah Baxter, a sister to the husband of Nancy Baxter. B. F. Suttle reared a large family, some fifteen in number, and four of the girls married Harrills; Carolina Suttle married Bill Bland; Jane Suttle married Sam Bostic, parents of Rev. Wade Bostic, missionary to China; Patsy married Pleas Fortune, and Judy married Tennessee Carpenter. George Suttle, a son, was a brilliant lawyer, and practised law at Rutherfordton for a number of years. Two of the other brothers acted as sheriffs of Cleveland county for a number of years and Rev. Joe Suttle was a minister.
A detailed genealogy of the descendants of George Suttle would occupy an entire issue of the paper. There are today hundreds of descendants of this worthy pioneer living in Forest City and surrounding

community. All are respected citizens, farmers, doctors, ministers and business men. All have adhered to the advice of their worthy progenitor to attend to business, plant corn in March and have corn to sell in the fall.

AGED SPINDALE MAN DIED FRIDAY

Funeral Held Sunday at Gilkey for Mr. T. J. Silvers, Aged 70 Years.

Spindale, Mar. 24.—Mr. T. J. Silvers, aged 70, died at his home here Friday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock after an illness of about two weeks. He was taken ill several days ago with complications. Little could be done to combat his illness, due to his advanced age.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Gilkey Methodist church. Rev. M. M. Huntley, pastor of the Spencer Baptist church, and Rev. W. Arthur Barber, pastor of the Spindale Methodist church were in charge of the funeral services. Interment was in the Gilkey cemetery.

Mr. Silvers is survived by his widow, who is nearing her 85th birthday, three children, J. W. Silvers, of Shelby; J. L. Silvers, of Spindale; Mrs. E. M. Lavender, of Spindale, nineteen grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Mr. Silvers was a native of Yancey county, North Carolina. He has been making Spindale his home for several years, and was employed by the Stonecutter Mills. He was one of Yancey county's oldest citizens, and remembered vividly many stirring events which occurred in the county. He was a fine Christian character, a good neighbor and a friend to all. He was a member of the Ebenezer Methodist church, of near Old Fort.

Pall bearers were members of the mens' and young mens' Bible classes of the Spindale Methodist church and were as follows: Messrs J. C. Wylie, H. L. Smith, Clyde Laughlin, Clarence Griffin, Max Tolleson and Russell Northey.

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