

Last Installment Story Of Founding Of Faison Community; By John Sprunt Hill

The following is the concluding installment of the story of the founding of the Faison community by the Faison family. The Times has some extra copies of the issues containing this feature for those who might want a copy at 5c each.

Deed from Henry Eustace McCulloch, son of Henry McCulloch, to Henry Faison, Progenitor of the Faison Family at Faison, covered tract of land that was a part of the McCulloch Grant. This tract of land was a part of a Patent of Land granted, May 19, 1637, by King George II of England, upon petition of Crymble & Huey and others, including Henry McCulloch, covering 1,200,000 acres, located on the head waters of Pee Dee, Cape Fear and Neuse Rivers.

After surveys were made of this land Henry McCulloch included, apparently for his own benefit, 72,000 acres on North East Branch of Cape Fear River, from the second high bluff upward to a point on Trent River on East side and on the West toward the head of Black River. In Colonial records, Vol. 4, page 689, Matthew Rowan, Surveyor, states "that lands between North East and Black River are within the heart of settlement upon the river which has the greatest trade in this Province and not far from navigation. A great part of them would have been settled long since had not McCulloch, by his misrepresentations, gained a grant for them." From examination of any map, it will be observed that all of Duplin and Sampson Counties were included in this Grant to McCulloch of 72,000 acres.

McCulloch proposed to settle a Colony of Swiss between Neuse and Cape Fear Rivers, and the Swiss Colonists arrived in 1736, and a Colony of Protestant Irish settled on the upper waters of North East River. Among these settlers were Col. Sampson, the Owens Family, the Kenans, and Walkers, and later the McNeils and Duncan Campbell. Three years later, in 1739, Col. McAllister, another Scotch Gentleman, brought over 350 Scotch people and settled in the Western part of Bladen District. In the Swiss Colony were many Welchmen, and where they both settled the tract was called the "Welch Tract," which in March 1737 was merged into the general McCulloch Grants, and extended from Burgaw Creek to Widow Moore's on Black River, and thence to the bounds of the Precinct covering Duplin and Sampson counties.

Colonial Records, Vol. IV, pages 689 to 689: It will be observed from the above that no part of Duplin and Sampson Counties were ever contained in the so-called Granville

Grants. See Colonial Records, Vol. 3, page 345. Seven Lord Proprietors sold their seven-eighths interest to King George II, September 29, 1729, for about 23,000 English Pounds. Provisions in this deed of sale barred all persons having any claims against these lands after a period of seven years. John, Lord Carteret, declined to sell his one-eighth share, and from 1729 to 1744, he continued, through his agent, to make grants of land under his original grant from Charles II in 1663. So much confusion arose from grants of land that finally, in 1744, King George II ordered the Earl of Granville's one-eighth part of Carolina (which included North and South Carolina) to be set off entirely in North Carolina. This Earl of Granville land "covered all that territory lying between Virginia on the North, and parallel 35 degrees 34 minutes on the South. The Eastern boundary line was the Atlantic Ocean, thence the Southern line began near the old Town of Bath and followed Western line through Snow Hill, Princeton and along Southern boundaries of the Counties of Chatham, Randolph, Davidson and Rowan, a little below the Southern boundary of Catawba County, and so on to the West of the Mississippi River. It is evident, therefore, that the deed from Henry Eustace McCulloch, son of Henry McCulloch, to Henry Faison, was never a part of the Granville Grants. It is sad, but this is true despite the opinions of many of our ancestors who claim titles directly from the Earl of Granville or King George II.

It will also be observed that while deed from Henry Eustace McCulloch to Henry Faison was signed in 1776, it was not registered until the 24th day of September, 1783, just two days before the entire estate of Henry McCulloch was confiscated because of his support of the English Government instead of the Colonists.

Colonial Records, Vol. 4, page 285: Henry McCulloch says: "It has been the practice of long standing for people to box pine trees and burn lightwood for pitch and tar without taking out patents of land from anybody."

See Ashe's History of North Carolina, Vol. 1, page 376, for map showing settlements and locations of races in North Carolina down to 1776, copy of which map is hereto attached.

In 1773, Henry Faison of Northampton County, as he was preparing to move to Duplin, sold 20 cattle, 9 sheep and 131 hogs in one lot and four cattle and "sundry hogs" in another lot. As part payment for new equipment, he was credited with 438 pounds of pork and some beef. These items show that he was a stock-raiser in his old home in Northampton County,

where easy transportation could be had over the Roanoke and Meherrin Rivers.

But the price was low and, with the increase in production as new settlers came in and population increased, little profit was to be expected from meat production.

In the region of the long-leaved pine, turpentine had been a profitable export product for fifty years. It did not require expensive equipment or great outlay to begin production - only to chop "boxes" in the trees and chip off this strips of bark above, and the sap would flow, to be dipped out and put in barrels ready for market.

In all probability this is what led Henry Faison's brothers to Sampson County and himself to Duplin County, where they had the same advantages for meat production as in his old home with the added advantage of turpentine as an imperishable chief money product.

The only drawback to turpentine was that it was a heavy product, making transportation to market costly if it had to be by cart or wagon and team over the trails that served as roads in that day. Heroic efforts were put forth to make small streams navigable, and so we have the plan of Henry Faison and his neighbors to make Goshen Swamp Run fit for boats to pass up to the mouth of Reedy Branch. They took the matter to the County Court of Duplin, which appointed a committee to study the feasibility of the plan.

The report of this committee was favorable, and, in 1785, Goshen was divided into seventeen districts to the mouth of Panther Branch, with overseers and men assigned to each district to keep the run open for navigation. Henry Faison's six negro fellows were assigned to the Sixteenth District, "from the bridge up to the mouth of Reedy Branch."

Heavy rains the next year caused the work on Goshen to be suspended. But the following the overseers were directed to work for four days on Goshen navigation-keep, and it is mentioned in the Court Minutes of 1790, which shows the effort put forth to get efficient and cheaper transportation for turpentine downstream to markets or larger boats on Northeast River.

Diana Griffin, wife of Henry Faison, was born October 12, 1756, according to memorandum in her Hymn Book. She married Henry Faison at the age of 17, and came with him to his Duplin County Plantation, where he died when she was 32, leaving her a widow with six children.

She married (2) Daniel Clark who died when she was 40, before her children had grown up. She had

no children by her second husband and after his death, she remained a widow until her death March 3, 1828.

Contemporary description of Diana Faison is lacking except for statements of a neighbor girl who became the mother of Rev. Dr. James D. Huffman. In letters written to John Sprunt Hill, Dr. Huffman says: "Diana Clark was held in great esteem by the young people who called her 'Granny Clark,' because she was the grandmother of so many of them, so I learned from my mother who was born at the Pass Place near Faison in 1811."

Mrs. Clark was a member of an old Baptist Church at Bear Marsh. Many of the Thompsons and Faisons of Sampson were Baptists also. "Diana Faison impressed her first husband with ability to manage her affairs before he left her by Will, much responsibility. We have read of his bequests, in his Will, of 475 acres of land 'to her own use during her own life of build-ups and improvements,' slaves, livestock and household furniture and tools for the use and support of herself and her house and her family." He also left her in complete charge of the education of his daughters. Henry Faison did not name his wife as one of the Executors of his Will. That responsibility was entrusted to Col. Dixon and his wife's brother, John Griffin, but apparently Diana Faison had much to do with the management of her property. When her second husband, Daniel Clark, died, without leaving a Will, Diana qualified as one of the Administrators of his Estate, along with her husband's brother, James Clark, and for her dowry she was allotted the house where she and her husband, Daniel Clark, lived and 300 acres of land. It was in this house of her second husband where Diana Griffin resided to the end of her life, and was described by Dr. Huffman as one of the best houses in the County. We may be sure that Diana Faison presided over her household not only with a high degree of capacity as a housekeeper and with religious devotion to the moral training of her children, but also with much social charm, otherwise, her daughters would not have become matrons of noble graciousness nor her sons have become the competent, highly respected citizens disclosed us by all accounts.

September 13, 1822, Diana Clark, made her Will. As most women of her time she had only personal property to convey. She made bequests to her grandson, Albert Hicks, to her daughters Nancy Frederick and Patsy (Martha) Faison, and to children of her daughter, Fannie Shaw, who apparently died the same year, and as Executors she named her sons, Isom and Elias Faison.

Education of her children. In statement of accounts of the Estate of Henry Faison, we find statements for schooling of children to the following persons: John Hurst, Samuel Trigg, Mr. Stanford, Thomas Duncan (dancing master), William Rigsbee, H. Hollingsworth, and for her son Isom, attendance at Chatham's School.

Settlement of Estate. In the settlement of the Estate of Henry Faison, where a division of money was made, Isom, Elias, Nancy, Patsy, and Fannie received 304 pounds, 6 shillings, 11 pence each, and the husband of Mary Hicks was paid 141 pounds, 10 shillings, 3 pence in February 1778

as the balance of her portion of the Estate. This indicates that Henry Faison accumulated quite a fortune in his life time. Twenty years later, after the death of Henry Faison, in 1828, there was a division of 22 slaves (valued at \$4,425.00) among the then living 5 heirs; Nancy Frederick having died in 1825, without leaving heirs.

Abcestors of Diana Faison. She was the daughter of Edmund Griffin and his wife, Martha Williams Griffin. (Griffin Line) Edmund Griffin was the son of John Griffin who died July 1, 17-27, leaving property, under his Will to his wife Jemima Griffin and to sons Edmund, John, Arthur, and daughter Mary.

This John Griffin was the son of John Griffin of Nansemond and Isle of Wight Counties, Virginia, and apparently was the original ancestor, coming from Gloucestershire, England.

(Williams Line). This Martha Williams Griffin, mother of Diana Faison, was the daughter of Rowland Williams and his wife, Phyllis Sims.

Rowland Williams, Isle of Wight County, Virginia, died March 10, 1678, leaving a son, George Williams.

This George Williams left a Will, dated 1737, probated 1774, Isle of Wight County, Va. His Will mentions his son Rowland Williams, who, in 1739, was Justice of the Peace in Bertie County, N. C. (See N. C. Colonial Records Vol. 4, page 346) at which time he stated that he was from Isle of Wight County, Va. 1749 Rowland Williams was Justice of the Peace in Northampton County, N. C., Northampton having been formed from Bertie County in 1741. (See Colonial Records Vol. 4, page 496.)

In 1742 Rowland Williams received Patent of Land for 642 acres on North side of Contentia Marsh, Edgecombe County. Rowland Williams died in Northampton County March 8, 1754. Mentions in his Will his daughter Martha Williams and his wife, Phyllis Williams.

Phyllis Fort Fiebash Sims Williams Line: N. C. S. & H. Register, Vol. 1, page 44.

George Fort died leaving Will dated May 15, 1719, in which he mentions his daughter, Phyllis Fiebash (widow) from Round Hill, Isle of Wight County, Va. In 1720 widow Fiebash married Robert Sims, widower, who formerly lived in Nansemond County, and moved to Bertie County, leaving four sons, the oldest being Robert Sims, Jr.

Robert Sims, Jr., a Major, was born 1721, and died in Wayne County 1791, leaving 11 children.

The 10th child of Robert Sims was Benjamin Sims, born November 13, 1772. The oldest son of this Benjamin Sims was Robert Sims, II, of Wayne County, who moved to Georgia about 1791, and married in Hancock County, Ga., March 25, 1815, to Sarah Dickinson who died in Cowettee County, Ga., June 25, 1850.

The 6th child of Major Robert Sims, Jr. of Wayne County was named Diana Sims; married John A. Green, Clerk of Court of Wayne County, and was well known to many of the residents of Duplin County. This confusion of names accounts for a great deal of misunderstanding about the ancestry of Diana Faison.

The 7th child of Major Robert Sims, Jr. of Wayne County, named Penelope, married Bryant Herring of Duplin County, and of course her descendants are well known

to many persons now residing in Duplin County.

NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND

Under and by virtue of the authority conferred by Deed of Trust executed by Wilbert Castella Brodgen and wife, Gladys F. Brodgen, dated the 2nd day of May, 1947 and recorded in Book 431, page 403, in the office of the Register of Deeds for Duplin County, Jefferson E. Owens, Trustee, will at twelve o'clock Noon on Friday, July 2, 1948 at the Courthouse door of Duplin County in Kenansville, North Carolina, sell at public auction for cash to the highest bidder, the following land, to wit:

In the Town of Faison, Duplin County, North Carolina -

Beginning at the intersection of the Southern margin of Solomon Street and the Western margin of Church Street, and runs along the Western margin of Church Street South 8 West 150 feet to an iron stake; thence North 82 West 50 feet to a stake; thence North 8 East and parallel with Church Street 150 feet to a stake on Southern edge of Solomon Street; thence along the Southern margin of Solomon Street South 82 East 50 feet to the beginning, and being the same lands as described in a deed from Mary L. H. Williams to H. T. Ray as recorded in Book 439, page 256, of the Duplin County Registry.

This sale is made on account of default in payment of the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust.

This sale is made subject to lien of all unpaid taxes and assessments, the payment of which shall be assumed by the purchaser.

A five per cent (5%) cash deposit will be required of the highest bidder at the sale.

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6-25-4t.

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