

HISTORY OF THE NORTON FAMILY OF CASHIERS VALLEY, NORTH CAROLINA

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NOTES

Roman numerals (I), (II), etc., refer to members of the family with the same name, numbered chronologically.

Arabic numbers in parentheses (1) (17,30) refer to the numbered references.

Underlining means the spelling was as copied.

Quaker dates have been copied as they were written.

Abbreviations: b. = born  
d. = died  
ca. = circa (about)  
Co = County  
MM = Monthly Meeting  
U. S. Postal abbreviations are used for states

## HISTORY OF THE NORTON FAMILY OF CASHIERS VALLEY, NORTH CAROLINA

The first known ancestor of this particular Norton family was Edward NORTON (I) of "ye city and parish of Armagh", County Armagh, Northern Ireland. He had two children, Edward NORTON (II) and Mary NORTON (I) who emigrated to Pennsylvania. (1) Both these children were Quakers, and because of records kept by the Quaker churches a great deal is known about them and their families.

Correspondence was conducted with Mr. George Chapman, a Quaker of some standing in Northern Ireland, but he could find no mention of Edward NORTON (I) in the Quaker records of that country. However, Edward (I) may not have been a Quaker, and it is possible records of him may be found in some of the other churches in the city of Armagh.

It is not known exactly when Mary and Edward (II) came to this country, or if they came together. Mary was here by the 10th month 24, 1733, when she married Richard BROWN, son of William (I) and his second wife, Ann MERCER, at the Nottingham Meeting House, Maryland. (1,2,3,4) William BROWN was an immigrant from Northampton Co, England. Mary NORTON was Richard BROWN'S third wife. (2,3)

The line between Pennsylvania and Maryland was in dispute in the early days, and the Nottingham lots were laid out in Pennsylvania. When a final decision was made on the state line, the Nottingham Meeting House was in Maryland.

On 10-16-1739 Edward NORTON (II) married Elizabeth BROWN, daughter of William (II) and Elizabeth COWGILL, a daughter of John, at the Nottingham Meeting House. Elizabeth BROWN NORTON was the granddaughter of William BROWN (I) and Ann MERCER of West Nottingham, Pennsylvania, and the niece of Richard BROWN, the husband of her sister-in-law. Edward NORTON (I) was deceased at the time of Edward (II) and Elizabeth's marriage. (1,2)

These families moved to Fairfax County (now Loudoun), Virginia, in the early 1740's. Richard BROWN served as a representative from the Hopewell Monthly Meeting to Chester County Monthly Meeting on 6 mo. 10, 1741, and again on 6 mo. 13, 1744. Edward NORTON (II) served as a representative the 6 mo. 8, 1743. (5)

When the Fairfax Monthly Meeting was established the fourth month, 1745, Elizabeth NORTON was appointed one of the two overseers of the women's meeting, and in 1748, she was appointed a minister. (4) Ministers of that time were lay visiting people rather than the type of ministers we have today.

Richard BROWN died 21 May 1745. Edward NORTON (II) witnessed his will 2 Feb 1745. (6) Mary and Richard only had one child who reached adulthood -- Messer (Mercer) BROWN, 1740-1802, who married Sarah and with their children moved to McDuffie County, Georgia. Mercer and Sarah had two sons, and seven girls, three of whom died young. (4,47) Mary Norton BROWN married as his second wife William KIRK in 1747 at the Nottingham Meeting House in Maryland. (4) It is not known if she had any children by this marriage.

Edward NORTON (II) and Elizabeth BROWN had seven children:

1. William married out of unity (married a non-Quaker) Dec 1760, Jemima PICKEREL (PICKRELL, PICKERILL, etc.). William was born 1740. Jemima was born

1742. William was disowned by the Fairfax MM 8-2-1762 for marrying out of unity. (4,8,30) William NORTON died 13 Oct 1821, age 81, and Jemima PICKEREL died 22 Oct 1829, age 87. They are buried in the Norton Family Cemetery at Tamasee, Oconee Co, SC. (16,65)
2. Margaret, b. 1741, married 3-17-1763 at the Cane Creek MM, NC, Joseph CHAMNESS. Margaret died 4-12-1784, and was buried at Providence, Randolph Co, NC. Joseph and Margaret had one son and four daughters. (7,8)
  3. Elizabeth, b. post-1741, married 1-10-1770 at the New Garden MM, Guilford Co, NC, William BEESON, b. 1743. She was his 2nd wife. Elizabeth and William had one son and nine daughters. Elizabeth died 12-30-1809. (7,8,13, 52)
  4. Richard, b. post-1741, apparently did not marry and must have died before 3 Sep 1778, because he is not mentioned in his father's will. (7,8)
  5. Mercer (Messer), b. ca. 1750, d. ca. 1800, Wayne Co, KY, married Martha HIGGINS and in the 1790 census was in Burke Co, NC, with a family. Messer and Martha had three sons, one named William, and four daughters. A comprehensive history of this family has been published. (8,47,53)
  6. Mary, b. 4-14-1757, married 11-5-1777 at Center MM, Guilford Co, NC, George THORNBROUGH, b. 5-31-1755, d. 8-31-1795. They had one son and two daughters. In 1815 a Mary THORNBURY married Isaac FRAIZER in Randolph Co, NC, but it is not known if this is the same Mary. (7,8,48)
  7. Edward (III), b. post-1750, d. pre-1790, was unmarried at the time of his father's death, but later married Nancy \_\_\_\_\_. They had a son, Richard (II), who married Elizabeth DENNIS. Richard and Elizabeth had four children, Dennis, Edward, Anna, and Elizabeth. This family remained in the Quaker faith and moved to Union County MM, Stokes Co, NC, later moving to Duck Creek MM, Henry Co, IN. Nancy NORTON married in 1790, Randolph Co, NC, Stephen MCCOLLUM; this was apparently EDWARD (III)'S widow. (4,7,8,16,17,44,48,49)

William NORTON was on the List of Taxables, 1761, Rowan Co, NC. (55)

Edward NORTON (II) and wife, Elizabeth, Ldn City, Va., sold land 15 Jun 1762 to Richard WILLIAMS, Bucks Cty, Penna., 100 acres on the branches of Kittocton and 400 acres above Kittocton Mtn. (9)

In 1762 the entire Edward NORTON (II) family -- Edward, his wife Elizabeth and five minor children, his daughter Margaret, and his son, William, were granted certificates to transfer to Cane Creek MM in North Carolina. They were received by Cane Creek MM 11-6-1762. (4,7)

Edward NORTON witnessed a deed in Dec 1762, in Rowan County, NC, for Herman HUSBANDS when HUSBANDS sold some land. Edward NORTON and Herman HUSBANDS, who was a leader in the Regulators, owned adjoining farms in Randolph Co, NC. (8,10)

At the 7 Aug 1764 Orange Co, NC, Court of Pleas, at Childsburg, William NORTON was one of a large group appointed to lay out a road from the county line between Rowan and Orange, crossing Sandy Creek, about two miles above GUESS'S Mill, into the best and most convenient road leading to Cape Fare. (12)

In 1764 Edward and Elizabeth NORTON, and son William, were granted certificates to New Garden MM, Guilford Co, NC. (7) William NORTON was disowned in 1765 for selling "Cyder" to the militia. Richard NORTON was twice disowned -- in 1765 for "Quareling and Fighting" and in 1769 for "striping to fight and using bad language." (7,11)

On 1 of 2nd mo. 1766 Edward and Elizabeth NORTON were two of several witnesses to the marriage of William BEESON and Ruth SISNEY. William's second wife was Elizabeth NORTON, daughter of Edward NORTON and Elizabeth BROWN. (7,13,52)

The 1768 Rowan County, NC, tax list included Edward NORTON, William BEESON, William THORNBOROUGH, Thos. DENIS and Edward DENIS. (63)

In April, 1768, a petition presented to the governor of North Carolina protesting the high fees for recording deeds in Orange Co, NC, was signed by William NORTON, Henry PICKRAL, and Archibald MCCOY. (14) These three families, NORTON, PICKRELL, and MCCOY were closely associated. William NORTON'S daughter, Elizabeth, married David MCCOY, the son of Archibald. (14,21,22,38,42,56)

William NORTON (I) was in a group of witnesses to the marriage of his sister, Elizabeth, to William BEESON 10 of 1 mo., 1770. (13)

On 4-28-1770 William was disowned by the New Garden Monthly Meeting, and no further mention of him has been found in Quaker records. (7) The reason for his disownment is not known, but he was a regulator, and this may have been the cause. (38)

On 22 Aug 1771 John PICKERILL married a Quaker, Catherine WIREMAN, and Richard NORTON was a Bondsman. Catherine was disowned 8-1-1778, for marrying out of unity, but was reinstated 4-7-1798 before her two children married in the Quaker faith. Dinah PICKERELL married John BALLARD, and Henry PICKERILL married Achsah PAXTON; both families later moved to Ohio. (1,7)

In 1772 a petition was presented to the Governor of North Carolina about fishing rights of poor families in Deep River, Guilford County. It was signed by Richard NORTON and William NORTON. (14)

In 1773 Colonel John MCGEE, who was a successful merchant of Orange Co, NC, died. A list of his debtors included Edward NORTON (II), Mesor NORTON, Richard NORTON, William NORTON, Henry PICKREL, Jane PICKREL, Joseph CHAMNESS, William BESON, and Archibald MCCOY. Colonel McGee's property was adjacent to a portion of Edward NORTON'S (II) property in Guilford Co. (8,42)

In 1775, Surry Co, NC, Benjamin CLEAVELAND'S list of tythes included Richard NORTON. The last known record of Richard NORTON, if it is the same Richard NORTON, was when he signed a petition on 22 Aug 1776 from the inhabitants of Washington District, NC (now Tennessee), requesting annexation to the state of North Carolina. (14,43)

Edward NORTON (II) wrote his will 3 Sep 177? (torn), probably 1778; he died 13 Sep 1778 and was buried at Providence, Randolph Co, NC. His will was recorded in Randolph Co in 1779. Elizabeth received a third of his estate and the privilege of living on his plantation during her life or widowhood. William received the 200 acres on which he was then living, Messer 200 acres on which he was then living, and Edward was to receive the plantation where "I now live" at the death of his mother or if she remarried, provided he married to please his mother. If Edward did not marry to please his mother, she had the authority to leave him only five shillings. All the rest of the estate was to be divided equally between all the children -- William, Messer, Edward, Margaret, Elizabeth, and Mary. (8) It is believed that Edward NORTON (II) lived at the same place in North Carolina the entire time and that the counties changed names as they were formed.

On 20 Nov 1882 Elizabeth NORTON of Randolph Co, NC, married Thomas BRANSON at Center Monthly Meeting. It is not known whether or not this was Edward NORTON'S widow, but it probably was. Elizabeth BRANSON died 28 Sep 1791, in her 73rd year. This would mean she was born about 1818; and this fits in with the history of Elizabeth BROWN NORTON. (7)

William NORTON (I) and Jemima PICKEREL had 10 children:

1. Elizabeth, b. ca. 1760-1770, d. between 1830-33, married David MCCOY, who died between 25 Aug 1832 and 23 Feb 1833.
  2. Henry, b. ca. 1764, d. before 1829, married Martha \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Edward, b. 1768, d. 11 Sep 1837, Pickens, SC, married 1 Sep 1789, Montgomery Co, VA, Martha HILL, b. 1768 VA, d. 1858, SC.
  4. Gideon, b. ca. 1774, d. 1820-1829, married (1) \_\_\_\_\_ EDMUNSON, who died prior to 1813; (2) Teletha \_\_\_\_\_, part Indian, b. 1790, d. ca. 1872.
  5. Susannah, b. 1773, VA, d. 1851, MS, married (1) Thomas BOYD, d. ca. 1805; (2) Albert ROBINS, b. 1771, d. 1847, MS.
  6. Katherine (Catherine) b. ca. 1770-1780, d. after 1840, married William BEAVERT (BEVERT, etc.)
  7. Lydia (Lidey), d. between 1840 & 1850, apparently unmarried. She was in the 1840 census, but not in the 1850 census.
  8. Barak, b. 10 May 1777, d. 1 Sep 1869, Rutherford Co, NC, buried in NORTON Cemetery, Whiteside Cove Road, Cashiers, NC, married 10 Jan 1805, Mary NICHOLSON, b. 1788 - 1 Jan [family tree] or 31 June [tombstone], d. 26 Mar 1883, also buried in the NORTON Cemetery. Mary's parents were William NICHOLSON and Martha RICHARDSON, who lived close to William NORTON (I).
  9. Sampson, b. ca. 1778, d. before 1829, married \_\_\_\_\_ HENDERSON, daughter of William, who died in Hall Co, GA.
  10. Jeptha, b. 27 Jul 1770, NC, d. 11 Feb 1862, married 19 Oct 1806 Elizabeth MOORE, b. 30 Nov 1782, SC, 1 Sep 1873. They both died at Craven's Ford, Pickens Co, SC, and both buried at Old Pickens Presbyterian Church, SC.
- There was a young William NORTON in the census of 1800 in Pendleton District, SC, married with a daughter under 10. It is not known whether or not this was William (I)'s son; but if so, he had died without heirs at the time of the settlement of William NORTON (I)'S estate. (15,16,17,18,19,23,31,46,50,61,62)

William NORTON (I) and Jemima PICKEREL and their family moved from Randolph Co, NC, to Montgomery Co, Virginia (later Grayson Co, now Carroll Co). William NORTON appeared on a 1782 tax list of Montgomery Co, VA. (16,45) William Norton received Land Grant #17 for 90 acres in Montgomery Co, VA, surveyed on 12 May 1783 and granted 8 Aug 1788. (58) He received a second grant in Montgomery Co, VA, for 93 acres, surveyed 10 May 1783 and granted 8 Aug 1788; this grant was not numbered. (59) William NORTON received a third grant, No. 27, in Montgomery Co, VA, for 140 acres, surveyed 10 May 1783 and granted 28 Mar 1793. (60)

On 27 Sep 1785 William NORTON was "...appointed overseer of the road from the ford of Crotchets Creek next his House to the flower gap..." and on 22 Nov 1785, he made a claim to the county for one old wolf head. (24)

On 25 Feb 1786 in Montgomery CO, VA, Henry PICKREL was appointed overseer of the Road from Magazine Spring to the old ford of Holsten above the Lorel Spring. (24)

On 24 Jul 1786 William NORTON received a land grant of 400 acres on Polecat waters, Randolph Co, NC. (54)

On 20 Nov 1786 William NORTON of the county of Montgomery, VA, sold land to Reuben WOODS in Randolph Co, NC, on the waters of Polecat Creek, being part

of a tract granted to said William NORTON 24 Jul 1786. William NORTON signed this deed with his mark X. (20,25)

On 18 Nov 1787 William NORTON of Montgomery Co, VA, sold land to Elisha KIRKMAN, part of a tract on Polecat Creek granted to said William NORTON 24 Jul 1786. This indenture was witnessed by Wm. BEESON. (20,25)

In the 1788 tax list of Montgomery Co, VA, were William NORTON, Sr., Henry PICKERILL, John PICKERILL, Archy MCCOY, and two David MCCOYS. Henry NORTON had appeared in the 1787 tax list, but was not in the 1788 list. (21)

In the 1790 tax list taken in May, 1789, of Montgomery Co, VA, were William NORTON with Edward NORTON (IV) in his household (apparently having turned 21 during the year), and John PICKERILL. Taxpayers in the 1788 list not appearing in the 1790 list were Henry PICKERILL and Archy MCCOY and the two David MCCOYS. (21,22) The MCCOY family moved to Grainger Co, TN. (50) Henry PICKERILL may have died or may have moved. (22) His name appears in a Randolph Co, NC, deed in 1791. (25)

In a list of the Montgomery Co, VA, Militia 1777-1790 were David MCCOY, Edward NORTON (IV), William NORTON, and Henry NORTON. David MCCOY was under 18, and William NORTON was "not fit." This might explain why no Revolutionary War record has been found for William NORTON (I). (26,56)

It has not been determined whether Henry PICKERILL and Jemima NORTON were father and daughter or brother and sister, nor how John PICKERILL fitted into this family; but because of their close proximity, they must have been related. Both Jemima and John named a son Henry.

In the 1790 census Edward NORTON (IV) was in Pendleton Co, SC. Messer NORTON was in Burke Co, NC, and Joseph CHAMNESS and William BEESON were still in Randolph Co, NC. Also in Randolph County was Thomas BRANSON, with one male over 15, and no other person. Edward NORTON was not listed. The only NORTON in Randolph County was Sarah, with 3 other free persons in her household, which would imply she was probably black or Indian. (27)

On 14 Nov 1791 Henry NORTON of Pendleton Co, SC, bought 294 acres on Twelve Mile Creek, a branch of the Saluda River. On 10 Jan 1792 William NORTON purchased 300 acres on Tomossee River, deed witnessed by Henry NORTON. (28)

On 23 Nov 1793 William NORTON and Jemima, his wife, of the county of Pendleton, SC, sold 93 acres on Crooked Creek of New River in Grayson Co, VA, to William BRADLEY, witnessed by Edward NORTON (IV) and Gideon NORTON. (29)

William NORTON (I) died without a will 13 Oct 1821. His estate was not settled until after Jemima's death on 22 Oct 1829. Edward NORTON valued the 650 acres at \$1,000; but it sold for \$452, purchased by Joseph TAYLOR. Three of William (I)'s and Jemima's children predeceased them -- Gideon, Sampson, and Henry, and the whereabouts of Henry's heirs were not known because Jeptha received Henry's share, Jeptha having been bonded for \$100, and he was responsible for seeing that Henry's descendants received their share of the estate. (16,17,18,19)

By 1820 Gideon NORTON and his wife, Teletha, and their family, had moved to Haywood Co, NC, near Otto (now Macon Co). They were there when the 1820 census was taken. (31)

Barak NORTON, born in Rutherford Co, NC, 10 May 1777, and Mary NICHOL-

SON, born in SC in 1788 on 1 Jan [family tree] or 31 June [tombstone], were married in South Carolina 10 Jan 1805. They lived in Pickens Co, Pendleton District, SC, until about 1826-1828 when they moved to Whiteside Cove at Cashiers, NC. They were the first white family in Whiteside Cove, and their daughter, Sarah Whiteside, was the first white child born in Whiteside Cove. (15,16,31,36,46,50,64)

Barak and Mary NORTON had 12 children:

1. Mira, b. 30 Oct 1805, Pickens Co, SC, d. 28 April 1904, Pickens Co, SC. She married James Madison MURPHREE, b. 1816, d. 1878, Pickens Co, SC. They are both buried in the Baker Cemetery in Pickens Co.
2. Rodrick, b. 18 Jan 1808, Pickens Co, SC, d. 9 June 1866, married Dreusilla BURRELL, b. 1 Jan 1815, Macon Co, NC, d. 20 Jul 1902. They are buried in the NORTON Family Cemetery on Whiteside Cove Road, Cashiers, NC.
3. Rosal married \_\_\_\_\_. Two infants of Rosal Norton are buried in the NORTON Family Cemetery in Cashiers, NC. A Rosal NORTON appears in the 1830 U. S. Census, Pickens Co, SC; but it is not known if this is the same person.
4. Elias, b. 1812, Pickens Co, SC, d. 28 Oct 1854, and is buried in the NORTON Family Cemetery at Cashiers, NC. He married ca. 1840 Mary (Polly) HOLDEN, b. 1820, SC.
5. Jemima, b. 3 Dec 1816, d. 22 Jul 1897, is buried in Highlands Cemetery, Highlands, NC. She married James WRIGHT, who was born in Tennessee.
6. Martha married James W. TATHAM. No issue.
7. Elizabeth married \_\_\_\_\_ JACKSON. No issue.
8. William, b. 28 Jan 1818, SC, d. 9 Jan 1889, married 8 Jan 1842, Macon Co, NC, Bondsman, H. COWART. His wife was Susan ZACHARY, b. 20 Apr 1820, Surry Co, NC, d. 29 Mar 1866. They are buried in the Lower Zachary Cemetery at Cashiers, NC. William married (2) a Mrs. BRADLEY.
9. Edward R. (Ned), b. 20 Nov 1821, SC, d. 1 May 1865, buried in the Norton Family Cemetery at Cashiers, NC, married 29 Nov 1849 Elizabeth WALL, b. ca. 1832, GA. Ned was murdered during the Civil War by some deserters known as Kirk's Raiders.
10. Giles C., b. ca. 1827, SC, married Sarah E. PASSMORE, b. ca. 1835, NC.
11. Sarah Whiteside, b. Aug 1828, Cashiers, NC, d. 10 Mar 1902, buried Holly Hill Cemetery, Whiteside Cove, NC, married John Heywood ALLEY, b. May 1814.
12. Barak Pickereel (Pick), b. 1831, Macon Co, NC, d. 2 Nov 1857, married Lavinia Ursilla HILL, b. 1836, d. 1857. They are both buried in the Norton Family Cemetery at Cashiers, NC. (15,33,36,37,50,51,64)

About 1930-35 Effie ALLEY PICKLESIMER drew up a large (35 in x 44 in) family tree showing four generations of Barak NORTON-Mary NICHOLSON descendants. It has hundreds of names on it, and hundreds more could be added today. Over the years several people have made copies of it. One widely distributed copy shows Mary NICHOLSON'S birth date as 1 Jan 1788; her tombstone shows it as 31 June 1788. (33)

Barak and Mary were Universalists in faith, according to John Preston Arthur in his book, WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA. Mr. Arthur tells a "well authenticated fact" about Mary NORTON being awakened one night while Barak was away from home by squealing hogs in the pen nearby. Her children were small, and there being no "man pusson" about, she rushed from the cabin in her night dress (and it was cold) with bare feet. She grabbed an axe from the wood pile as she went by, and running to the hog pens, she saw a large black bear in the act of killing one of her pet "fattening hogs." She hit the bear in the head with the axe, splitting the cranium from ears to chin, and had bear meat for breakfast instead of furnishing pork for the bear. (17,34)

Barak and Mary NORTON both lived to be in their 90's and died at the home of some of the WRIGHT family (Jemima NORTON) near Shortoff, NC, close to Highlands. They are both buried in the family cemetery on Whiteside Cove Road, 1.9 miles off Highway 107, Cashiers, NC. Barak NORTON owned slaves, and some of them are also buried in this cemetery. (36)

The Barak NORTON Family Reunion is held at 11:00 a.m. on the fourth Sunday in July at the Whiteside Cove Community Church. This reunion has been meeting over a hundred years.

One of Jemima NORTON'S descendants, a man named Charlie WRIGHT, rescued a drunk man who fell from the top of Whiteside Mountain and landed on a ledge on the side of the mountain. Charlie went down, barefooted, picked the man up, and carried him to safety. For those who have climbed the mountain and peeked over to see this ledge, it was quite a dangerous feat. Charlie was rewarded for his effort. (37)

Sarah Whiteside NORTON married John Heywood ALLEY. Their grandson, Judge Felix ALLEY, Jr., wrote a most interesting book about Western North Carolina, MUSINGS OF A MOUNTAINEER.

David BIRD, a descendant of Barak and Mary by their son, William (II) worked for the U. S. Public Health Service in Dallas, TX. A lady co-worker, whom David had known for 10-15 years, mentioned that she was going to Highlands, NC, on her vacation to see her mother. David asked who her mother was, stating that he was descended from people who had lived near Highlands; and they discovered they were both descendants of Barak and Mary NORTON. Later that day David was telling a male co-worker, whom he had also known a long time, about the coincidence, and found that the man was also descended from Barak and Mary. Three people in the same office in Dallas-Texas! (37)



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