

WILLIAM CARROLL (1742-1812)
& ANN LYNCH (1750-1800)

WILLIAM CARROLL, eldest son of John Carroll of Johnston County, North Carolina, was barely coming of age in 1763, when his father died, leaving Will and four younger orphans. Young Carroll was married a few years later, however, and he and his wife, Ann, faced the dilemma of operating large plantations and raising his younger brothers and sisters as well as beginning their own family.

William was born about 1742, probably in Craven County, from which Johnston County was formed within a few years. His father held title to hundreds of acres of land on either side of Swift Creek. Thus, the boy received his only education as a planter at an early age.

When John Carroll died in autumn of 1763, Will was a minor for he was named among five surviving orphans of his father (Johnston CO 1:163). Thereafter, however, he did not experience guardianship proceedings required by his sisters and brothers; Instead, he subsequently took over those same responsibilities for his sister, Susannah (Johnston CO 2:82), and brother, Benjamin Carroll (Johnston CO 2:157).

On September 22, 1763 (Johnston Deeds 1:42:#562), William Carroll paid £10 to James Jones for 200 acres on Busby Branch, "including the tract John Carroll formerly surveyed, running the old lines, including the whole." Even then, he was designated as a "planter." Coincidentally, his uncle, James Carroll, sold his sixty-acre plantation on the south side of Swift Creek on September 20, 1763 (Johnston Deeds 1:40:#560). This parcel was "part of a tract granted to Jas. Carroll by deed by John Carroll." The land was bought for £9.8p. by Needham Bryan Sr.; The latter's son, Needham Bryan Jr., witnessed both deeds, and Jones' deed to Willm. Carroll was proven in open court by Needham Bryan Jr.'s oath and duly recorded (Johnston CO 1: 166).

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In fall of 1764 (Johnston CO 1:199), William Carroll was ordered to work "upon the road where Simon Turner is overseer," along with his cousin, Sill Johnson (Jr.) and their neighbor, Caleb Penny. Johnson was a son of Widow Elizabeth (Carroll) Johnson, one-time guardian of William Carroll.

William Carroll was married on March 10, 1767 (St. Paul Parish MR), to Thomas Lynch's seventeen year old daughter, Ann. The wedding took place in Georgia's St. Paul Parish, an area on the Carolina-Georgia border which, a decade later, became Richmond County and, in 1790, became Columbia County.

However, the young couple returned to his home on Swift Creek in North Carolina, where Ann's name was first mentioned in land records (Johnston Deeds 3:530:#1025). Ann and William had six children, James, born in 1768; William Carroll, who was born about 1770; John (1768-1805), Mary, born in 1775; Bethania, born in 1778, and Mitchell Carroll, who was born about 1782.

In a deed dated March 21, 1770 (Johnston Deeds 1:124:#516 & 3:350:#1024), William Carroll, Johnston County planter, and his wife, Ann, sold their 200-acre home place to Samuel Holloway for £30. This evidently was the same property that Carroll had obtained from James Jones, "being the tract that John Carroll formerly surveyed, running the old lines, including the plantation the sd William Carroll now lives on...houses, buildings, orchards, etc." Neither William nor Ann Carroll could write their names but acknowledged the deed with their + marks.

Ann and William Carroll continued to reside in the same neighborhood, however, on another section of his late father's old properties. It came about like this: On December 31, 1776 (Johnston Deeds 11:7:#232), William Carroll bought 150 acres on the north side of Swift Creek, which the late John Carroll had conveyed to his brother-in-law, Sill Johnston, sometime before deaths of both older men in 1763.

Johnson's son, Benjamin, inherited this tract and sold it to Benjamin Clements, who, after moving to Wake County, sold it to William Carroll for £60. This deed was recorded in August, 1777, and described the property as beginning at a red oak on Swift Creek, running east to a sweet gum, north to a black jack, down Spring Branch to its mouth and down this creek to place of beginning. There are two important matters to be noted: This corroborates an assumption that the deceased John Carroll and Elizabeth Johnson were brother and sister, and, evidently, this plantation was William Carroll's family home throughout the Revolutionary War.

Then, on March 7, 1778 (Johnston Deeds 11:204:#326 & CO 2:262), William Carroll bought an adjacent eighty acres at the mouth of Cove Branch on Swift Creek, which their father had bequeathed to William's brother, Benjamin Carroll. On the same day (Johnston Deeds 11:204:#326 & CO 3:39), William also bought another eighty acres on Swift Creek from his other brother, John Carroll. On May 7, 1778 (Johnston Deeds 11:255:#352 & CO 3:89), William and John Carroll, sold their combined tracts, totaling 240 acres, to Drewry Massey, for £300.

William Carroll served as a private in the North Carolina Line of the Continental Army during the American Revolution.

On May 29, 1778 (Johnston Entry 1:38:#296), William Carroll entered one hundred acres, "joining his own line and Sill Johnston (sic), lying on the No. Side of Swift Creek." More than a year later, December 30, 1779 (Johnston Deeds M1:6:#6), this land was patented to him by State Grant No. 396, signed by North Carolina Governor Richard Caswell at Kingston. On Tuesday, August 24, 1780 (Johnston CO 3:141), "the fifth year of American Independence," the County Court confirmed his claim. As required by the new state's law, every recipient of such a land grant swore an oath of allegiance to the United States.

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STATE of NORTH-CAROLINA.

No. 296

NEDHAM BRYAN,
Entry Officer of Claims for
Lands in the County of Johnston.

To the SURVEYOR of the said County, Greeting.

YOU are hereby required, as soon as may be, to lay off and survey, for *William Carroll*
a Tract or Parcel of Land, containing *one*
hundred Acres, lying in the
County aforesaid, *forming his own land grant*

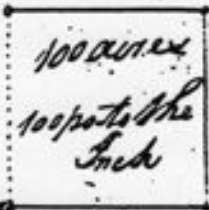
*known lying on the N side of Swifts
Creek —*

Observing the Directions of the Act of Assembly in such Case made and provided for running out Lands. Two just and fair Plans of such Survey, with a proper Certificate annexed to each, you are to transmit, with this Warrant, to the Secretary's Office without Delay.

GIVEN under my Hand at *My office*
the *ninth* Day of *September* Anno
Dom. 1778

N. Bryan

William Carroll's State of North Carolina Land Grant (No. 296), dated September 9, 1778, during the Revolutionary War.



Beginning

Survey of Mr. William Carroll One hundred acres
of land in Johnston County on the north side
of Swift Creek beginning at a post where the
Johnston County Va. & Carroll line runs along
his own line East one hundred & twenty
seven poles to a small heavy stone North
one hundred & twenty seven poles to a pine
stem West one hundred & twenty seven
poles to a pine in said Johnstons line then
along his line South to the beginning

13th of May 1779

John Carroll

Survey of William Carroll's Land Grant

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On January 11, 1779 (Johnston Land Entries 1:82:#649), Carroll entered another hundred-acre claim on the south side of Swift Creek, "joining Leven Coles and John Carroll's line."

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There was no confirmation of this second claim. However, his brother, John, entered a claim on the same day (Johnston Land Entry 1:82:#648).

Several state military vouchers attest to William Carroll's service in the Continental Line.

An undated account of due bills & certificates, drawn by John Sheppard (NC Archives, Revolutionary Army Accounts, III:107, Folio 2), showed £9.7s.1p. due to William Carroll for serving as a soldier of North Carolina's Continental Line. It is voucher Number 809.

Sheppard was an accountant for eastern North Carolina, specifically Hillsborough District. A "Roster of North Carolina Soldiers in the Revolution" lists William Carroll (No. 2202) as receiving payment from Sheppard.

Another voucher (No. 306) showed Carroll was due £9.17s.2p. out of Hillsborough District. Service was dated August 1, 1783, while the voucher bears a date of May 1, 1792.

There are further indications of the Carrolls remaining on Swift Creek during the war. Four times between August, 1780, and May, 1782, William Carroll was ordered to serve on jury panels, at least once as a grand juror (Johnston Court Orders 3:146, 153, 203, 208). On May 7, 1783 (Johnston Deeds 2:171: #463), Carroll's neighbor, Abraham Jordan, sold his 89-acre plantation, "joining the lines of William Carrell, William Bryan, Abner Jordan & sd Caleb Penny," the latter being the purchaser of Jordan's land.

On March 19, 1784 (Johnston Deeds 01:74:#512) William and Ann Carroll sold their plantation, 330 acres on Swift Creek and Cove Branch, to Cary Cox, of Halifax County, for £30, current money. Boundaries included lines of Sill and Absalom Johnson. Again, both Ann and William used their + marks on the deed. It was examined by Justice of the Peace John

No. 306.

L. 19, 1/2 Specie.

BY VIRTUE of the Authority vested in us, by an Act of the General Assembly, passed at Newbern, January 1792, WE HEREBY CERTIFY, That the State of NORTH-CAROLINA, is indebted to *William Carroll* late a Soldier in the Continental Line of said State, the sum of *fourteen pounds 8/10* with Interest from the first *in specie* by Vouchers lodged in this Office. *August 1783, as appears*

Hillsborough, *14th May*

By Order,

Wm. H. H. H. H.

1792

Wm. H. H. H. H.
R. Sanders

Voucher of William Carroll for Revolutionary War Service

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McCullers, witnessed by Richard Rivers and Sion Wheless, and registered the following August 31st (Johnston Court Orders 3:264). This appears to be the final record of William and Ann Carroll in Johnston County land transactions. On May 11, 1786 (Johnston Deeds 3:84:#727), Carey Cox sold this same 330 acres on Swift Creek, and its boundary was referred to as "the line formerly called William Carrol's line" and "sd Carrols old line."

The first United States census, however, shows Carroll's family was still there (Johnston Census 1790:142:2:22). His

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family comprised himself, his wife, their youngest son, Mitchell, and two daughters, fifteen year old Mary and twelve year old Bethania. Their oldest son, James Carroll, lived alone nearby (Johnston Census 1790:142:2:27). He was twenty-four years old and, thus, of age to become a taxpayer; The "census" was based on late tax lists which explains why John and William Carroll Jr.—neither yet twenty-one—were not shown in either this census or taxrolls. Young William, in fact, was married on February 8, 1790 (Johnston MR Date), yet his name does not appear on either the census or tax lists.

However, many of their relatives, neighbors and associates—John Carroll, Absalom and Sylvester Johnson, Drury Massey, Richard Rivers and Caleb Penny among them, for instance—do appear on "A List of Inhabitants of Capt. William Bryant's Company," which was enumerated by Mathew Carter (NC State Census 1787: 80-81). Three years later, these same people, generally speaking, were counted in the first Federal census of Newburn District's Johnston County.

Sometime between 1787 and 1792, William Carroll's family moved to his wife's former home area in Georgia but kept close ties with their relatives, friends and associates in Johnston County.

On January 10, 1787 (Georgia Land Register LLL:357), William Carroll patented 200 acres granted to him in Richmond County (formed in 1777 from St. Paul Parish) by Georgia Governor George Mathews. Carroll's land was surrounded on all sides "by vacant lands," attesting to the undeveloped character of the territory. Ensuing surveys of Carroll's land in 1792 (Book XXX:102-104) indicate he had received an additional hundred acres or more and, as the area became settled, his neighbors included the Youngbloods, Prathers, Wallaces and Pools.

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The Carrolls probably remained in North Carolina a few years before moving permanently to Georgia. In 1790, Columbia County was created from that part of Richmond in which Carroll's land was situated.

Ann and William Carroll's two older boys were first to marry, William in February, 1790, to Sarah Stevens and _____ (Johnston MR Date), to _____ William and Sarah Carroll were enumerated in the following census (Johnston Census 1800:767:18), with two boys and two girls, all being under ten years of age. James and Rhoda Carroll lived nearby (Johnston Census 1800:767:2) with a boy and a girl, as well as an older woman in their household.

However, all but one of William and Ann Carroll's other sons and daughters were married in Appling, Columbia County, Georgia: John Carroll was married on June 4, 1792 (Columbia MR Date), to seventeen year old Ann Prather; Mary Carroll was married on June 2, 1794 (Columbia MR Date), to William Hunt, and the youngest girl, Bethania Carroll, was married on February 26, 1798 (Columbia MR Date), to Ann's brother, Edward Prather.

On December 3, 1805 (Johnston MR Date), Mitchell Carroll, youngest son of William and Ann, returned to Smithfield, North Carolina, to marry his eighteen year old cousin, Sally, daughter of John and Aly Carroll. Afterwards, they also lived in Georgia (Columbia Census 1820:33), until moving to Wake County, North Carolina.

John Carroll died on September 8, 1805 (Columbia Probate 9/14/1805), leaving a wife and four children. John's widow and his brother, James Carroll, were participants, however, in Georgia's land lotteries between 1807 and 1820.

The elder William Carroll's wife, Ann, died between 1790 and 1806, undoubtedly in Columbia County, Georgia, where they resided at the time.

William Carroll Sr. returned to Smithfield where, on July 29, 1806 (Johnston MR Date), he was married again to Sarah Penny, widow of his former neighbor and plantation owner Caleb Penny (1740-1802). John Carroll and Edwin Smith were bondsmen.

Sarah's husband died on his Johnston County plantation of more than 400 acres in November, 1802. He was sixty-two years old, survived by her and nine of their ten children. Sarah. Not only did Caleb's father, Edward Penny (1720-1782), operate the farm adjacent to John Carroll Sr. but, in 1764, twenty-four year old Caleb was assigned to work on the same road as both William Carroll and Sill Johnson. Then, in 1772, Caleb Penny was appointed guardian of Carroll's son, John Jr., whom he taught to be a cooper, a manufacturer of barrels and casks. The two families obviously had formed a warm friendship over many years of close association.

Sarah and William Carroll returned to his home in Columbia County, Georgia, where he died on December 17, 1811. His last will & testament, dated November 30, 1809, appears to have been filed in both Appling, Georgia, and Smithfield (Johnston Wills 1:#391), because of his North Carolina holdings. In his will, he names his wife, Sarah; sons John, who predeceased him; James, William and Mitchell Carroll, and daughters, Mary, wife of William Hunt, and Bethania, wife of Edward Prather. William Carroll Jr. was named executor of his father's estate.

William Carroll Sr. was nearing seventy years of age at his death.

WILLIAM CARROLL'S WILL

Johnston County, NC, Will Book 1, Page 391
Devised November 20, 1809; Probated November Term, 1812

(Columbia County)

Georgia

In the Name of God Amen, I WILLIAM CARROLL of the State of North Carolina and Johnston County, feeling and in disposition of body but of perfect Sound Mind and Memory, thanks be to God for calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my last will and testament. As touching such worldly estate herewith it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give and devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form.

First, I give and bequeath to SARAH my dearly beloved wife all that part of my estate now existing in the State of North Carolina and Johnston County at the present place of my residence which I received with or acquired by or in virtue of my marriage with said Sarah, consisting of personal property, viz. three negroes Toby and his wife, Lidy, and her child, Luidy, a small stock of horses and cattle. The residue of my property at the said place of my residence I desire that it should be sold and the money equally divided amongst all my children whom I shall hereafter mention if any there is after all lawful expenses paid.

Also, I give to daughter MARY and William HUNT three hundred dollars cash to be raised and levied out of my estate.

Also, I give to daughter BETHANIA and Edward PRATHER three hundred dollars cash.

I also give to my grandchildren the orphans of my son, JOHN CARRELL, deceased, two hundred dollars cash to be equally divided amongst them when they come of age.

Examination of the Witnesses to the Will of **WILLIAM CARREL** dec'd, who after being duly Sworn on the holy Bible deposeth & sayeth that he was requested by the said dec'd., to Subscribe as a Witness to the Enexed Will which deponant Says he did declare & that he heard Silas Monk ast by Said dec'd., to Witness said Will & that said Monk consented to become a Witness & directed a by stander to write his name to the which Mr Monk did acknowledge.

Sworn to & in by virtue } James Ross
 before us this 13th August 1812 }
 Z. Magruder }
 Daniel Daniely } Commissioners

Silas Monk attended also who after being duly sworn as aforesaid deposeth & sayeth that the foregoing affidavit made by James Moss is corectly true as I have stated.

Sworn to before us this } his
 13th August 1812 — } Silas X Monk
 mark

Z. Magruder }
 Daniel Daniely } Commissioners

William Carroll's widow, Sarah, died less than a year later, in November, 1812. She also had devised a will in August, 1809, after her marriage to Carroll. Since they had no children or heirs between them, her estate was devised to her children by Caleb Penny. Her sons, Alexander and Hardy Penny, were executors of her estate.