

21 Nov 2001
5518 Revere Drive,
Salt Lake City, Utah, 84117

Lt. Commander Scott Kirk
1907 Oakshire
San Antonio, Texas, 78232

Dear Lt. Commander Kirk:

As I promised you I would I have studied carefully the latest family of a Stephen Kirk, son of a John Kirk of Montgomery county, N. Car. at a point in time. I read carefully the E-Mail data from you and from others which you shared with me.

I knew I had seen a copy of a bible record for that Stephen, of John, and sure enough in the correspondence between myself and your relative Stephen Kirk, there was a copy of the bible records which appeared in the genealogical publication in Stanly county, North Carolina. I have for your convenience in studying have made up family group sheets on his parents which are referred to in the bible record abstracts and his wives and children. The children all came through his 1st wife. At no time did he leave the state of North Carolina. Further please note that he is born in 1791 which makes him much younger than you last known Stephen whose age I had approximated from the approximate age of his wife, Anna in the 1830 census and from the ages of his children in the census.

Also in reviewing the early court abstracts in various counties in North Carolina and Georgia I have noted that differing Kirk families all seemed to be fond of the same given names, Lewis, Levi, William, John, Stephen. This makes sorting them out tough. However, the bible record for that Stephen certainly establishes his families's exact dates and eliminates that family as your direct line. Further a claim is made on the internet that John emigrated from Ireland, which, of course is possible, but I didn't see any documentation to back that up.

The areas of present counties of Chatham, Caswell, Orange, Halifax, and Northampton all have clues on the early Kirk families who settled there early. In addition the early Wilkes county, Georgia Kirk's have reference to an elderly lady who came in colonial times to Wilkes from Penn. and brought her 3 sons with her. In the same court abstracts in the past searching I had noticed Joel McClendon there and mention of a Stephen Kirk there. Earliest mention in that county in 1780's. This would be too old to be your Stephen of Jasper and Jones counties. However, from the time that the Stephen related to Joel McClendon, reportedly through a wife,, Elizabeth McClendon, was in nearby Hancock county with the Womack's (two Abraham's at once for a time) in 1806, last deed reported there. I had searched all original deed indexes for Wilkes and Hancock, plus court abstracts.

In previous searching in Jasper county and Jones on your Stephen, earliest deed on him is in Jasper county, 7 March 1808, wherein it is stated that he is of Jones county. Jasper county, Ga, deed book one, film 0158493, pgs. 207/208. Then further Jasper county, Ga., deed book 2, pgs. 19/20, film 0158493, Stephen Kirk of Jones county, sells 20 Jan 1809 land in 9th district Baldwin county formerly, 202 acres. Deed signed by Stephen and Anny.

Further the other Stephen Kirk is referred to in the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery book, 975.8R21w, pg. 196, land in Hancock county. Earliest mention in Wilkes county, Ga. Deeds(975.8172R2fn), pg. 120 states that Arthur Smith sells to Joel McClendon, 100 acres Fishing Creek, deed proved in court by Stephen Kirk, 3 Feb. 1788. Pg. 35 same Hancock abstracts deeds refers to a land sale adjoining land of Joel McClendon, and Stephen Kirk in 1784 on Ft. Creek.

Clearly the Stephen of Wilkes and Hancock counties must be same one with lands adjoining Joel McClendon, his father in law reported by another researcher. In both Wilkes and Hancock deeds abstracts Joel McClendon and Stephen Kirk were on bordering properties in deeds. Further on 2 Jan 1794 Nathan Barnett sells to Stephen Kirk land on flat creek and Joel McClendon acts as one of witnesses to sale.

If the Stephen of Wilkes and Hancock is the same Stephen as the one of Jones and Jasper, then your Stephen would have to have been much older than his wife, Anna. No definite death on the Stephen of Hancock or Wilkes areas. No mention in the probate on Stephen in the deeds in Jones of a relationship to any McClendon/McLendon families. No mention that Elizabeth and Anna might be wives of same man. Elizabeth McClendon wife first, then Anna. No mention of additional children through a prior marriage being considered in deed estate settlement located for you previously for your Stephen.

I did the reconstituted tax lists book for 1790 time frame for Georgia to see if two different Stephen Kirk's might be listed and didn't find that to be the case. No census for 1800 or 1810 for Georgia. First census and index for 1820 and I have already tracked down all the heads of families named Kirk in that census year.

Statewide early court indexes checked, also a huge series of early court abstracts compiled by Georgia Gen. Society was searched in past for you, plus early land abstracts, early will indexes and intestate proceedings indexes checked for all Kirks in past.

As previously cited, I noted the original deed indexes for all counties where Kirk's were found in Georgia early and also in North Carolina and South Carolina counties where early Kirk's were mentioned.

In addition to running off copies of the Stephen Kirk, of John and his parent's sheets too for your records, I have also input new families from data which I have been accumulating for your records, both printouts on family group sheets and on a gedcom disc.

In the Orange county - Halifax - Chatham - Caswell areas in North Carolina we have the same names as those which appear in South Carolina and Georgia. The areas of most interest to me are Orange county and Halifax counties. Note the family group sheet of Isaac Kirk who resided in Halifax county as early as 1770, note the extensive searching I did to try and locate more on the identity of all of his children, but was only partly successful when I found a land deed mentioning that he had died and his heirs living in Halifax county were selling his land in Hancock county, Ga. This puts a definite place where a Kirk came from Halifax county, N. Car. to Hancock county, Ga. Where the older Stephen was located during that time, who had married the Elizabeth McClendon, if another's research is correct?

Then we have the Lewis Kirk (your one ancestor is named Levi Louis Kirk (Lewis) who married the Sarah and who had a will in North Carolina in Orange county. He witnesses deeds with a William Kirk, Isaac Kirk and others. Even a Levi Kirk early in 1780's involved in court proceedings in Orange county, N. Car. It would appear from the men appearing frequently as witnesses to one another's deeds, and proving the deeds in court for one another that the early men in Orange had to be related, brothers? Cousins? Uncles, nephews? With Lewis's will we know who most of his children are. However, the son, Parham is proved from the deed sale for 6 shillings of 190 acres by his father to him and by the DAR registration from the descendant of Lewis through the Parham, with birth dates, etc. The DAR data sent to me via corres. From Stephen.

The early Stephen who sold property to two sons before moving away from state to South Carolina, had a son, Lewis in estate proceedings named in South Carolina, Chester county, previously checked. That older Stephen who is involved in court records in Orange with Lewis, Levi, Isaac and William, is in same generation as these older men as previously mentioned.

With Isaac, Joseph and Lewis's children known, I would ponder the possibility that your Stephen could be an only son, of the Stephen who married the McClendon, or a son of the early Levi or William involved with Lewis, Stephen and Isaac in court matters in Orange and Halifax counties early.

If your Stephen is the son, of the older Stephen and he had no other children that could account for no probate packets if he reached his majority and his mother was dead about the time his father died? If He is rather the same Stephen that married the McClendon/McLendon first then he could be either the son of the Elizabeth mentioned in Wilkes as coming from Penn., or the son of William or Levi involved in deeds with yet another Stephen (who died in S. Car. in Chester county). The Stephen's large court docket in South Carolina mentions his heirs and names them, no Stephen is mentioned so he didn't have a son, Stephen.

When you have had a chance to digest all of this with the family group sheets, if you have anything additional you would like me to check, let me know. In the meantime this has taken about \$60.00 of my time for your turn for this time. I included in this review rechecking some books at library to be sure I hadn't overlooked anything. Also checked a General index to North

Carolina wills from earliest to almost 1900 by author Thornton Mitchell. Read all Kirk wills in index and had already looked them all up, so nothing new there.

Rechecked book An Abstract to North Carolina wills, by Fred Olds, 1760-1800 and read the whole book here at home and there were no Kirk names at all. This was time consuming but didn't want to feel that I might have overlooked a possible clue.

It is my pleasure working with you on your family lines. I had in the past done the Valley of the Virginia 3 volume set of Augusta county, Virginia court records, called Chronicles of the Scotch Irish Settlement in Virginia and had copied out all the Kirk references to compare against the Penn. and North Carolina references I had already checked.

For another search I could follow through on some of the possible clues in Penn. to see about locating the Elizabeth Kirk who had the three sons and ended up in Wilkes county, Ga. early in deeds. If she is related to an older Stephen, then we would find that out. It would be good, too to find her husband's will if possible?

You are doing a fine job of comparing notes on the internet with people on your research. Good for you!

Hope when you receive this you will have had a nice Thanksgiving with your dear wife and precious baby twins. Wish you and your family a happy holiday season and much good health and happiness in the coming months. If any problems with disc, please let us know right away and we will compose another.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lola Sorensen/AG

encl/ family group sheets-

George Kirk, wife, Mary and children; Isaac Kirk, wife, unknown and children; John Kirk and wife, Mary and children; Joseph Kirk, wife unknown and children; Lewis Kirk and wife, Sarah and children, Stephen Kirk, wife Patsy Kimbrell and children(he had no children by his 2nd wife); Thomas Kirk/Kirke and wife Eliz. And dau, An
ged-com disc