

HOLLOWELL RESEARCH NOTES 3

Some Early Beginnings in North Carolina

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The first permanent settlement in North Carolina was made in the territory around the Albemarle Sound and rivers which empty into it. Settlers moved down from Virginia for religious freedom as well as economic considerations. Settlers could acquire rich lands on easy terms and have larger ranges for their stock.

By 1663 many settlers had come into the Albemarle region. King Charles II, in 1663, issued his Charter to the eight Lords Proprietors by which he created Carolina. This granting of the Charter attracted attention and inquiries were made about terms to settle in the new colony. The Lords Proprietors set about to establish in 1663 the first government which was confined in Albemarle County. Many settlers arrived and took up land grants. Land patents were issued by the King of England to people in Virginia. In North Carolina the Lords Proprietors issued the patents called land grants.

By 1670 Albemarle County had been divided into four precincts--Currituck, Pasquotank, Perquimans, and Chowan. Then in 1722 Carteret and Bertie Precincts were formed. The name PRECINCT was changed to COUNTY in 1739.

Bertie Precinct in 1722 was formed from Chowan Precinct. Saint John was the first county seat. Windsor became the county seat in 1774. Bertie had its beginning at the Albemarle Sound, thence northward along the Chowan River, then eastward across the Chowan River to Bennett's Creek next to present day Gatesville into what is now the western part of Gates county, on to the Virginia territory and the land West. Some land transactions in Chowan county before 1722 became a part of Bertie Precinct after it was formed.

The General Assembly had the power to form new precincts or counties. Northampton county was formed in 1741 from Bertie county with Bertie keeping all the old records previous to 1741.

Hertford county was formed in 1759 from the northern part of Bertie county and across the Chowan River to Bennett's Creek in the northern part of Chowan county and a small part from Northampton county. The settlers living in Bertie county suddenly found themselves listed in Hertford county in 1759. That part of Bertie county that was in what is now the western part of Gates was included in Hertford county. All the records in Hertford county were burned when the Federal troops burned Winton Feb. 20, 1862. This loss handicaps research work in Hertford.

Gates county was formed by act of the General Assembly during January and February 1779 (during Rev. War) from Chowan, Hertford and Perquimans counties with Chowan and Bertie keeping the old transactions. Gates county began writing deeds as of Gates county March 1, 1779. Of course Hertford's records were burned in 1862. There is at Gatesville, however, one book -Book A- listing deeds as of Hertford county until March 1, 1779 and then on as deeds of Gates county after that date. All the wills in North Carolina prior to 1760 were sent to the State Capital. They are on file at the Dept. of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C. Beginning in 1760 to the present time the wills are filed at the county seat. There are land transactions in Bertie county before 1779 that designate places in Gates county. They went from Bertie to Hertford and from Hertford to Gates. The Chowan River became the dividing line between Hertford and Gates counties. The northern part of Chowan and Perquimans were cut off to help form Gates county. Some early deeds in Chowan county refer to lands which are in Gates county after 1779. Thus those earliest Odom deeds to land in Chowan county became land in Gates.

The Odom Family in Chowan-Hortford later Gates Counties

Many settlers came across the Virginia-North Carolina State line into Northeastern North Carolina from adjoining Nansemond, Norfolk and Isle of Wight counties, Virginia. The Virginia-North Carolina State Line was run in 1728. Several Odom families came from Nansemond county, Virginia to Northeastern North Carolina. They lived first in Norfolk county. Then they bought land in Nansemond county. They moved into now Gates county, North Carolina in the early 1700's. The Odoms were land-looked in Upper Parish of Nansemond county and their move to Cypress Creek in now Gated county and not so far from the Chowan River gave opportunities for export and import trade.

Cypress Swamp is in Gates county, North Carolina between Eure and Gatesville and closer to Eure.

The official records of Nansemond county were burned by the Federal troops in 1864 when they burned Suffolk. Such a great loss! Deeds at Edenton, Chowan county and at Windsor, Bertie county give dates of the land transactions and where.

Richard Odeon, son of William I, continued to live in Norfolk county as a young man.

Richard Odeon (son of Wm. I) assigns Power of Attorney to Francis Sayer

Deed Book 4 page 74

16 Feb. 1679 Norfolk Co.

Robert Butt and Elizabeth his wife assigns property to Richard Odeon (son of Wm. I)

Deed Book 4 page 74

6 Feb. 1679 Norfolk Co.

Richard Odeon bought land in Upper Parish of Nansemond county, Va. He married Anne --? and they lived in Nansemond. With that urge for new holdings he moved across the State Line into Chowan Precinct (later Gates Co. 1779)

Edward Williams and wife Mary of Chowan precinct sold 200 acres land in Mount Pleasant on North side of Cypress Swamp to Richard Odium of Upper Parish of Nansemond county, Va.

Book W page 94

Oct 1, 1706 Chowan Co.

Richard Odium of Upper Parish of Nansemond county assigns Power of Attorney to Daniel Magee to act and do in my name as if I were there in person. Daniel Magee sold 200 acres land to Richard Malpress same land bought by Richard Odium of Edward Williams lying in Mount Pleasant.

Book W page 156

7 April 1713 Chowan Co.

Richard Odium patented 300 acres land in Chowan precinct
1 March 1718 on Roggerses Branch up Looking Root Branch on North
side of Cypress Swamp

Richard Odium patented 271 acres land in Chowan precinct in
year 1716 at Honour Branch (later Gates Co. 1779)

Richard Odium (Odom) was an elderly man when he moved with wife
Anne and nine children to the North side of Cypress Swamp, Chowam
precinct in 1706 (later Gates Co.) He died will probated Jan. 1728.
children as in will Eldest son Richard, 2nd son John, Jacob, Aaron,
Abraham (to each son a plantation), Anne, Sarah, Elizabeth, Jane.
These sons settled in now Gates Co. Abraham bought land and settled
in Bertie county. Aaron bought land in Edgecombe county. Some of
their descendants are still living in Northeastern North Carolina.

The Odoms have used family names from one generation to
another--William, John, Richard, Jacob, Moses, etc. They witnessed
deeds and wills for each other. When they came into North Carolina,
they settled in what is now Gates Co. formerly Chowan and Hertford.

William Odeon IV, son of William III and Patience Warrick Odeon,
was living in Norfolk county (see pages 4) He married Jemima Thorn.
He came into what is now Gates county and settled on the North side
of Cypress Swamp. Other Odoms were living in that area. Records in
Nansemond and Hertford counties were burned and it is difficult to
trace families living in these counties.

William Odom gave to Hardy Howard use of land next to Chowan River
Book 2 page 34 28 Oct. 1787 Gates Co.

William Odom of Gates Co. for love, good will and affection to
my loving son John Odom of Gates Co. give the whole of my plantation
whereon I now live, likewise my Sand Bank land on Chowan River, like-
wise two negro men, bed, furniture, two maple tables, one horse,
one mare, one half of my hogs and cattle, one desk.

Book 3 page 31 Gates Co. Signed William Odom
Jemima Odom

William Odom IV left a will in Gates county dated 23 Aug. 1794
probated Nov. court 1794. Children as in will: Uriah, John,
William, Mary Thorn Odom, ~~Mary~~ Nancy, Moses, Elizabeth Rawls,
Charity Carter. (see will pages 15-16)

John Odom (above) continued page 18

Moses Odom (above) continued page 19

Will of William Odom IV- Gates County
Book 1 page 128

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In the name of God Amen I William Odom of Gates county and State of North Carolina being weak in body and in a poor state of health, although of a sound and perfect understanding and memory, do constitute this present writing as my last will and testament. First I humbly bequeath my soul to God, my Maker, and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian like and decent manner and as touching shoh worldly estate as it hath pleased Providence to favour me with, I give and dispose of in manner and form following:

Imprimis- I give, devise and bequeath unto my beloved son Uriah Odom the plantation and land that I purchased of Jesse Sanders to the new line that I made between my two sons Uriah and John Odom I say unto my said son his heirs and assigns forever, also my negro boy called Great David unto my said son his heirs and assigns forever

Item-- I give, devise and bequeath unto my son John Odom six barrels of good brandy I say; unto my said son his heirs and assigns forever.

Item- I give devise and bequeath unto my son William Odom my negro woman named Lida and one negro boy called Jerry and one negro girl named Meriam and one horse colt called Drummer and one bed and furniture that his grandfather Thorn gave him I say; unto my said son his heirs and assigns forever.

Item- I lend unto my wife Jemima Odom one negro boy called Little David during her life or widowhood and afterwards to my son Moses Odom, I say; I give devise and bequeath the said negro boy unto my said son Moses Odom his heirs and assigns forever.

Item- I give devise and bequeath unto my daughter Nancy Odom ten shillings, I say; unto my daughter her heirs and assigns forever.

Item- I give devise and bequeath unto my grandson Daniel Howard ten shillings, I say; unto my said grandson his heirs and assigns forever.

Item- I give devise and bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth Rawls and unto my son Uriah Odom and unto my daughter Charity Carter and unto my son John Odom and unto my daughter Mary Thorn Odom and unto my son William Odom all my estate within doors and out, equally to be divided between each of them after my just debts except the legacies before mentioned.

Lastly- I nominate and appoint my beloved son John Odom my whole and sole executor to execute this my last will and testament, revoking and disannulling all other wills heretofore made by me, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this the 23rd day of August in the year of our Lord Christ 1794

William Odom--Seal

Signed, sealed and published
in presence of us

Francis Saunders

David Walton

Probated Nov. court 1794 Gates Co.

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