



Rachal Mills Lennon, CG

Certified GenealogistSM

FindingSouthernAncestors.com

2258 Hwy 25; Cottontown, TN 38048

lennonrm@comcast.net

DATE: 1 August 2013

REPORT TO: Dr. Robert Harper

REPORT NO: 9

SUBJECT: Solomon Harper of Cobrin's Militia List, North Carolina

BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY

Client is interested in the Solomon Harper who appears among the married men on a list of Samuel Cobrin's North Carolina militia company. The oft-published document carries neither date nor location but is commonly associated with the "Spanish Alarm" of the mid-to-late 1740s. No actual source for the assertion has been offered. Nevertheless, Solomon has long been regarded by descendants as the likely candidate for the man of Craven and Colleton Districts, South Carolina. Client wishes to determine whether this is true and, if so, gather evidence of his origin.

Working with an undated document without a specified location is difficult. Relying upon assertions made by other researchers is risky because assumptions frequently prove to be wrong. The starting point for this installment, therefore, is to pursue the other men on the list and place as many of them as possible in a specific community at a specific time—particularly those who are named closest to Solomon on the list. These individuals are a likely representation of his neighborhood cluster. Once the time, location, and neighbors have been identified, work can proceed to gather information on Solomon in that place, as a basis for identifying and tracking him.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Among other findings, this installment:

- Corrects the date of the Cobrin list
- Establishes that Solomon's immediate neighborhood in modern Gaston and Lincoln Counties and identifies important associates there
- Highlights migration waves in and out of the community in which he likely participated

However, the most important development shows that

Solomon “Harper” of the list was actually Solomon “Hoover.”

Because the evidence was not straight-forward, I will walk through it all methodologically.

DETAILED FINDINGS

Considerable time was spent in this segment on a general survey of published material for information on the individual militiamen in order to place them in their particular neighborhoods. As the following discussions will show, Solomon’s immediate cluster fell within the boundaries of historical Bladen and Anson Counties during the 1740s and 1750s. Unfortunately, most of Bladen’s historic records have been destroyed, thereby eliminating the most convenient and accessible research avenues.¹ Furthermore, Solomon did not appear in available Anson County records, thereby increasing the importance of – and time devoted to – his neighbors and associates as conduits to his identity.

The undated militia list on which Solomon appears is found in numerous publications, such as the *Colonial and State Records of the State of North Carolina*, an extensive collection of transcribed governmental documents. That version is as follows:

List of Troops in Samuel Cobrin’s Company of the North Carolina Militia²

Samel Cobrin Captain
Thomas Betty, Lieutenant
John Kuykendall, Insin.
Hendry Tonston, Sergen.
George Heger, Sergen.
Abraham Kuykendall, Corperl.
Adam Dick, Corpillr.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Robert Leeper | Frederick Hambright | Young Men: |
| Robert Patrick | Hendry Richards | John Tuftis |
| William Hendry | Peterer Hoyl | John Armstrong |
| Andrew McNab | Peter Bumgardnor | William Armstrong |
| Phillip Rudisill, Corpil | Peter Oyster | John Doughart |
| James Kuykendall | Peter Club | John Kilen |
| Peter Kuykendall | Michel Rudeseele | John Richman |
| William Hagirty | William Heger | Jacob Hoyl |
| Andrew Hemton | Solomon Harper | Joseph Seler |
| [continued page] | | |

¹ Bladen County records were destroyed through courthouse fires in 1765, the early 1800s, and 1893.

² Walter Clark et al., eds., *The State Records of North Carolina*, 26 vols. (Winston, Goldsboro, and Raleigh: Various publishers, 1886–1907), 22: 281–82.

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| John Moore | Hendry Sides | William Little |
| William Moore | Jacob Forney | Archibald Little |
| William Aldeare | Boston Bett | William Patrick |
| Thomas Stone | Lenard Kilen | John Patrick |
| John Langham | John Rorite | Michael Oyster |
| George Rutlege | John Camp | William Froneberry |
| William Gleghorn | William Rachford | Peter Bumgarnor |
| Samel Willson | Felty Taliner | Thomas Warwick |
| John Nelson | John Limerman | James Moore |
| Thomas Ranils | Cristin Limerman | Isaac Cobren |
| Richard Ranils | Watson Ferol, Juner | Adam Dick |
| David Stanley | Watson Ferol, Senior | Jacob Limermon |
| John Watkins | Joseph Green | Cristel Eaker |
| Charles McFeeters | Peter Eaker | Michel Setor |
| Edward Hogen | Adam Sides | John Dick |
| Robert Brank | [next column] | Hendry Ramsour |
| [next column] | | |
| Married men 48 | Young men 30 | Guns wanting 18 |

The list evokes immediate questions of location, date, and migration, all of which must be addressed before conclusions can be made regarding this Solomon's potential placement in Client's lineage.

Solomon's Location

Historical compilations frequently reflect neighborhoods or the order in which men presented themselves to be counted. In the former case, an official would record families in the order in which he encountered them, thereby preserving a snapshot of communities. Men typically clustered into familiar groups composed of family and neighbors, even when they gathered on the militia grounds. The men listed nearest Solomon on Cobrin's list could very well be family and neighbors and, therefore, prime research targets to be used in placing Solomon in Client's lineage.

The land work presented in this report shows the Cobrin list represents small interconnected neighborhoods spread throughout modern Lincoln and Gaston Counties, North Carolina, and York District, South Carolina:

Landholdings of Cobrin's Militiamen

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (Married Men) | |
| Robert Leeper ‡ * | Frederick Hambright * |
| Robert Patrick ‡ | Hendry Richards * |
| William Hendry ‡ | Peterer Hoyl * |
| Andrew McNab ‡ | Peter Bumgardnor * |
| Phillip Rudisill | Peter Oyster |
| [continued next page] | |

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| James Kuykendall ‡ † | Peter Club * |
| Peter Kuykendall ‡ † | Michael Rudeseele * |
| William Hagirty ‡ | William Heger * |
| Andrew Hemton ‡ † | Solomon Harper |
| John Moore | Hendry Sides * |
| William Moore | Jacob Forney * |
| William Aldeare § | Boston Bett * |
| Thomas Stone | Lenard Kilen * |
| John Langham | John Rorite |
| George Rutlege † | John Camp |
| William Gleghorn § | William Rachford |
| Samel Willson | Felty Taliner |
| John Nelson | John Limerman § |
| Thomas Ranils § | Cristin Limerman § |
| Richard Ranils § | Watson [William] Ferol, Jr. |
| David Stanley § | Watson Ferol, Sr. |
| John Watkins † | Joseph Green § |
| Charles McFeeters † | Peter Eaker § |
| Edward Hogin | Adam Sides * |
| Robert Brank * | |

Key:

- * Killian's, Leepers, and Hoyle Creeks, eastern **Lincoln Co.**
- † Kuykendall's and Dutchman's Creeks, northeast **Gaston Co.** into southeastern **Lincoln Co.**, and west into **Mecklenburg Co.** (includes Cobrin)
- ‡ Fork of South Fork and the Catawba River, up to Dughart's Creek, southern and central **Gaston Co.**
- § Beaverdam, Indian, and Long Creeks, western **Lincoln Co.**
- || Southern **Gaston Co.** and across border into **York Dist., S. C.**

We can place Solomon more precisely within this region by locating the following men who were surrounded him on the list:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Peter Hoyl | The man for whom Hoyle Creek was named. He first lived with Bostain Best [aka Bett] on Leeper's Fork and Killian's Creeks before locating his own land near modern Dallas. ³ |
| Peter Bumgardner | Owned land on Killian's Creek. ⁴ |
| Phillip Rudisill | Owned land on "Heyels" Creek near his brother Michael. ⁵ |

³ Robert W. Ramsey, "Captain Samuel Cobrin's Company of Militia, The First Settlers of Gaston and Lincoln Counties," *Journal of North Carolina Genealogy* 12 (Winter 1966), 1775 Laban Miles Hoffman, *Our Kin: Being a History of the Hoffman, Rhyne, Costner, Rudisill, Best, Hovis, Wills, Shetley, Jenkins, Hollins, Hambright, Gaston, Withers, Cansler, Clemmer, and Lineberger Families* (Charlotte, N. C.: Privately Published, 1915), 269.

⁴ Ramsey, "Captain Samuel Cobrin's Company of Militia, 1776.

⁵ Hoffman, *Our Kin*, 269. Ramsey, "Captain Samuel Cobrin's Company of Militia," 1775.

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Peter Club | Owned land on Leepers Fork. ⁶ |
| Michael Rudeseele | Lived on Leepers Fork near his brother Phillip. ⁷ |
| William Heger | Owned land with George Heger on Killian's Creek. ⁸ |
| <i>Solomon Harper</i> | |
| Henry Sides | Lived on Killian's Creek near his brother Adam on Leeper's Fork. ⁹ |
| Jacob Forney | Owned land on Killian's Creek. ¹⁰ |
| Boston Bett | Owned land on branches of Leeper's and Killian's Creek. ¹¹ |
| Lenard Kilen | Lived on middle fork of Killian's Creek. ¹² |

This community is highlighted on map 1.

With Solomon's neighborhood established let us now look to dating the militia list.

A More Precise Date

The most repeated date for Cobrin's list is 1748-49 during the so-called "Spanish Alarm" that threatened the North Carolina coast. However, studying the militiamen themselves shows this assertion is incorrect. The following three serve to illustrate the point that the list was created after the Alarm:

- William Rachford was in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1751, when he appears in records of Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church. Two years later, he is noted in the same records as having left for the Carolinas.¹³

⁶ Sharon Foster, "Petrus Peter Klopp Clubb," Rhoades/Wassom; Whiteley/Barnes Families (<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-igm.cgi?op=Get&db=.2298338&id=1554917395>). This website provides documentation.

⁷ Harry Hopes, "Why Move There," *Hoppes Connections* (<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hoppes/WhyGoThere.html>). This website provides documentation. Ramsey, "Captain Samuel Cobrin's Company of Militia," 1775.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid., 1776

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Tony L. Johnson, Peggy Johnson, and Lee Johnson, "Relations; Mostly: Burton Farmer, Carter, Dale, Lound, Haile & Hatcher relations; all have connections to White Oak Group researchers," Публикации (<http://be.convdocs.org/docs/index-90495.html?page=7>), citing North Carolina Patent #5091. This website, hosted by a Belarussian entity, provides many useful record abstracts, with citations to original records and derivative sources. However, the site's construction is extremely confusing. Sidebar links are in Belarussian but can be read by engaging Google translator. The header at the cited page actually begins "Fuschia Color is Tony L. Johnson ..." A preceding web page (<http://be.convdocs.org/docs/index-90495.html>) explains that the site is a collaborative work by 80 researchers and that differently colored pages are used to identify each group of contributors. The color fuchsia is used for Tony, Peggy, and Lee Johnson.

¹² Geo. Killian, "RE: Killian's Settlement," *Killian-L Archives* (<https://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/KILLIAN2001-09/1000782720>). This website provides documentation.

¹³ "Descendants of Andrew (Col) Hampton," *FamilyTreeMaker* (<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/a/m/Karl-Hampton/BOOK-0001/0008-0001.html>). James McClune, *History of the Presbyterian Church in the Forks of*

- Edward Hogan was last on record in Augusta County, Virginia, in 1752, when he sold his only known land. He was noted as “Gone away” on a list of 1753–54 tax delinquents.¹⁴
- Robert Leeper, recognized in histories as one of original Gaston County settlers, is on record in the forks of the Catawba in 1749 and received land grants there in 1753. In that year and in 1754, he sold those lands, with witnesses William Henry and Robert Patrick (the men listed immediately after him on Cobrin’s list.)¹⁵

map 1
Solomon Harper’s Community¹⁶
(noted in green)



Brandywine, Chester County, Pennsylvania (Brandywine Manor Presbyterian Church), from A.D. 1735 to A.D. 1885 (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1885), 238.

¹⁴ “Edward Hogan,” *We Relate* (http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:Edward_Hogan_%287%29). For the land disposal, see Lyman Chalkley, *Chronicles of Scotch Irish Settlement in Virginia*, vol. 1 (Roselyn, Va.: The Commonwealth Printing Co., 1912), 496.

¹⁵ Thomas Robertson received a grant in 1740 for land about five miles below Robert Leeper and joining the Catawba River. See Joel Robinson, “Augusta Co., Va., Connection,” *Joel Robinson* (<http://www.joelrobinson.com/robinson/origin/augusta.html>). The website provides documentation. For Leeper’s 1754 land sale, see *Johnson/Johnstone DNA Surname Project* (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hjohnson/>), which also provides documentation.

¹⁶ “Pearce’s New Map–The State of North Carolina [1859],” *North Carolina Maps* (<http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/ncmaps/id/8957/rec/3>).

North Carolina historians have shown that Gaston County was too sparsely populated in 1748–49 to provide such a large number of militiamen. Settlement there did not pick up until the erection of Leeper’s Fort at the fork of the main branch and south fork of the Catawba *after 1750*.¹⁷ In the summer of 1753, Matthew Rowan noted the small number of men in the vast western region that incorporated future Gaston. “In the year 1746 I was up in the Country that is now Anson, Orange and Rowan Countys, there was not then above one hundred fighting men there is now at least three thousand for the most part Irish Protestants and Germans and dayley increasing.”¹⁸ While noteworthy, the population increase is deceptive because it was spread throughout three vast historical counties that incorporated about half of the modern state. Anson was the least populated of the three. In 1754, officials reported only 810 taxable men there, and not all would have been fit for militia duty.¹⁹

A closer look at the other lists coupled with Cobrin’s raises additional questions about its asserted date. The most often cited source is the published *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina*, cited above, which groups together twenty documents under the “Spanish Alarm” umbrella. Of these, Cobrin’s is the only one recording the number of “guns wanting.”²⁰ This is significant when one considers the context that would warrant such an assessment. At the start of the French and Indian war in 1754, acting Governor Arthur Dobbs was concerned about the militias of Anson and Rowan, the most exposed frontier counties. He reported to the Lords proprietor that “There is not half of the Militia armed’ and worried about their ability to face impending Indian attacks.²¹ That March, Matthew Rowan appropriated “£1,000 to buy arms and ammunition for the poorer Inhabitants of Rowan & Anson Countys[,] being most exposed.”²² Three months later, he complained that he had been waiting but still did not have an “exact list of the militia.”²³ The only way these officials would know about the shortage in arms and strength of the militia would be through the reporting of the local militia officers, who, in turn, would gather that information through a muster.

A second point in the analysis of the “Spanish Alarm series” is the obvious inclusion of irrelevant documents. Of the twenty, two clearly were not involved:

¹⁷ Minnie Puett, *History of Gaston County, North Carolina* (Charlotte, N. C.: The Observer Printing House), 43–44.

¹⁸ Letter from Matthew Rowan to the Board of Trade of Great Britain, 28 Jun. 1753, “Colonial and State Records of North Carolina,” database with images, *Documenting the American South* (<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr05-0011>); citing Book 5: 24.

¹⁹ “List of Taxables in North Carolina for the year 1754” in William L Saunders, *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina* (Raleigh, N. C.: State Archives, 1886–1890), 5: 320. Rowan County reported 1116 white men while Orange reported 95.

²⁰ This means there was not enough guns in the district for the number of fighting men.

²¹ “Dobbs to Board of Trade, July 12, 1756” in Saunders, *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina*, 5: 603.

²² “Matthew Rowan to the Board of Trade, 19 March, 1754” *ibid.*, 108–9.

²³ “Letter from Matthew Rowan to the Board of Trade of Great Britain, 22 Oct. 1754,” *ibid.*, 144c–d. Dobbs believed the number to be around 1500 foot soldiers and 400 horse soldiers.

- “Roster of Militia from Martin County,” dated 1790
- Undated “List of troops in John Shearrad’s company of the North Carolina Militia,” which is elsewhere dated 1 October 1767 and identified as a Dobbs County company.²⁴

Finally, another version of the list is published in *Colonial Soldiers of the South*, dating it to the “1750s,” within a series of list from 1754 and 1755.²⁵

Based on all of this evidence, one must conclude that Cobrin’s list was created in 1754 and was erroneously filed with documents of the previous decade’s Spanish Alarm. Ergo, we can now place the militiaman “Solomon Harper” in the eastern part of modern Gaston County, between Leepers Fork and Killian’s Creek, by 1754. So let us now look more closely at the families who lived there with him.

Solomon’s Neighbors

A third central component to the investigation of the Anson County Solomon is ethnicity. Historically, ethnic, religions, and kinship groups migrated and lived together, particularly in dangerous frontier settlements. Placing Solomon within a particular group will provide invaluable clues to his identity. We must therefore take note of the fact that he is among a recognizable and well-documented cluster of ethnic Germans:

Known Ethnicity of Cobrin’s Militiamen

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Robart Leeper (English) | Frederick Hambright (German) |
| Robart Patrick (Scotch-Irish) | Henery Richards |
| William Hendry | Robert Brank (German) |
| Andrew McNab (Scotch-Irish) | Peter Hoyl (German) |
| John Doughart (Scotch-Irish) | Peter Bumgardnor (German) |
| James Kuykendall (Dutch/German) | Philip Rudisill (German) |
| Peter Kuykendall (Dutch/German) | Peter Club (German) |
| William Hagirty (Scotch-Irish) | Michael Rudeseele (German) |
| Andrew Hemton | William Heger (German) |
| John Moore | Solomon Harper |
| William Moore | Hendry Sides (German) |
| William Aldeare (Scotch-Irish) | Jacob Forney (French/Swiss) |
| Thomas Stone | Boston Bett (German) |
| John Lahgham | Lenard Kilen (German) |
| George Rutledge | John Rorite (Scotch-Irish) |
| William Cleghorn | John Camp (German) |
| [continued next page] | |

²⁴ Francis R. Hodges, “Dobbs County Militia Rolls, 1761–1781,” *Old Dobbers* (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~paday/dobbers/military/malita.htm>).

²⁵ June Murtie Clark, *Colonial Soldiers of the South 1732–1774* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1983), 652.

Samuel Willson
John Nelson
Thomas Ranils
Richard Ranils
David Stanley
John Watkins
Charles McFeeters (Scotch-Irish)
Edward Hogin

William Rachford
Felty Taliner
John Limerman (German)
Cristin Limerman (German)
William Ferol Jr.
William Ferol, Sr.
Joseph Green
Peter Eaker (German)
Adam Sides (German)

The majority of Solomon's "neighbors" on Cobrin's list hailed from Pennsylvania, but interspersed among them were Virginians. Many of these families in eastern Lincoln and Gaston counties associated with and married each other during the frontier period. Therefore, the possibility that this Solomon came to North Carolina as part of the Pennsylvania or Virginia migration is quite strong.

The Germans who made their way into the Catawba region first populated the northern part of modern Gaston, spreading into Lincoln. They founded a tight-knit and largely contained community led by several families:

CLUBB/KLOPP

Peter Clubb bought land on Leopard Creek (modern town of Mariposa) from Leonard and Margaret Killian 14 July 1753. Later that year, he purchased land on both sides of Killian's Creek next to Robert Leeper from Samuel and Sarah Moore. He was a landowning neighbor of Thomas Ouright and James Armstrong and Bastion Best. In 1758, he purchased land from Peter and Mary Oyster on Leeper's Creek, part of a grant to Oyster.²⁶

BEST/BAEST/BETT

The earliest documented German settler in this region was Sebastian (Bostian) Best, born in Pfalz Palatinate, Bayern, Germany-Prussia in 1717. He was in North Carolina before April 1750, when he had already located land. Four years later, he received a grant for land on branches of Leeper's and Killian's Creeks, where he then lived, and where he lived until his death in 1769. His daughter married into the neighboring Hoyle family. Known adjoining neighbors during the 1750s included Peter Clubb and Hance Adam Snider; his children married into the Forney, Hoyle, and Rudisill families.²⁷

²⁶ 7 Johnson, "Relations; Mostly: Burton Farmer, Carter, Dale, Lound, Haile & Hatcher Relations;" citing Anson Deed Books 1: 304-06, B: 370, and 5: 292, and N. C. Patent Books 18: 48 and 15: 509. Steven Beghr, "Re: Peter Clubb [Klopp/Clobb] of North Carolina," *Clubb Family Genealogy Forum* (<http://genforum.genealogy.com/clubb/messages/581.html>).

²⁷ Hoffman, *Our Kin*, 351-5. Johnson, "Relations; Mostly: Burton Farmer, Carter, Dale, Lound, Haile & Hatcher Relations;" citing North Carolina Patent #5091.

FORNEY

Forney was Swiss, born in Alsace [then France], about 1721. He migrated to Philadelphia in 1739. He returned briefly to Alsace when he reached adulthood, then returned and married Maria Bergner in Philadelphia, and moved to North Carolina about 1750 or earlier. He was granted land in 1750 on Killian's Creek. He died in 1806 and lies buried in the cemetery of Old Dutch Meeting House, about 11 miles east of Lincolnton.²⁸

LEEPER

Robert Leeper had settled east of the Catawba River by 1749. He and Thomas Robertson built the first fort in the area. He sold the land in 1753 and 1754, with witnesses William Henry and Robert Patrick, who are listed immediate to him on the Cobrin list.²⁹

OYSTER/OUSTER

Peter Oyster, from York County, Pennsylvania, was granted land on Leeper's Creek in 1754, adjoining Robert Leeper. He later sold part of it to neighbor Peter Clubb.³⁰

The Virginians, heavily Scotch-Irish, had come into the region slightly earlier, bringing families to the west side of the Catawba during the mid-to-late 1740s. The first concentration (which included a spattering of Germans and Englishmen) was located at the so-called "Point," the juncture of the Catawba River and its south fork.

Among the original pre-1750 settlers were the families of Hambright, Hardin, Leeper, Kuykendall, McLean, Robertson and Potts.³¹ For protection against marauding Cherokee, they built the area's first "fort" at the Point. Other settlers soon followed, receiving land grants over the next five years: Robert Palmer, Robertson Patterson, Robert Patrick, William Patten, Rachel Price, Robert Ramsey, George Pencik, James Sharpe, John Thomas, John Turner, William Barnett, and Edward Boyle.³² Samuel Cobrin settled nearby, north of the fort, around modern Mount Holly. Among his neighbors receiving land grants in the early to mid-1750s were John and Judith Cobrin, George Cathey,

²⁸ Ramsey, "Captain Samuel Corbin's Company of Militia," 1776. "Jacob Forney," *Find a Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com>), "Jacob Forney," memorial 94629022, created 31 July 2012 by Nancy Alana.

²⁹ Thomas Robertson received a grant in 1740 for land about five miles below Robert Leeper and joining the Catawba River. See Joel Robinson, "Augusta Co., Va., Connection," *Joel Robinson* (<http://www.joelrobinson.com/robinson/origin/augusta.html>). The website provides documentation. For Leeper's 1754 land sale, see *Johnson/Johnstone DNA Surname Project* (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hjohnson/>), which also provides documentation.

³⁰ For documented land abstracts, see Barney L. Sitz, "Abstracts of North Carolina," *Seitz Family Genealogy Page* (http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~seitzfam/_private/nc_land_records.htm). For other evidence, see Steven Beghr, "Re: Peter Clubb [Klopp/Clobb] of North Carolina," *Clubb Family Genealogy Forum* (<http://genforum.genealogy.com/clubb/messages/581.html>).

³¹ Minnie Stowe Puett, *History of Gaston County, North Carolina* (Charlotte, N. C.: The Observer Printing House, 1939), 42. Each of these men received land grants dated 1750 or earlier.

³² *Ibid.*, 44.

Thomas Walker, John Watkins, William and Margaret Dickey, James Harris, William Henry/Hendry, Charles and William McKnight, Samuel Neely, Robert McCleachan, and Thomas Leonard.³³ From Cobrin's community, settlement expanded further north along the South Fork to Beaverdam and Indian Creeks in the western portion of Lincoln County. There, James Hemphill, James Spratt, John Clark, and John and Martin Armstrong were among the first landowners.

Placing this Solomon within this well-defined region allows for a more detailed study of the individuals living there and their connections to them. The pool of primary research targets has been expanded through additional research to include all identifiable residents of the Killian's Creek-Leeper's Fork region before 1755, even if they are not represented on Cobrin's militia list.

"Solomon Harper's" Identity

With Solomon's community and key residents now established, work progressed to gather more evidence of Solomon there. I found nothing on any Harper living in that region during the 1750s: no man of the name witnessed deeds for residents, assisted in surveys, participated in estates, used the court system, or fulfilled any of the typical civic duties for the period. His silence is curious given the visibility of his neighbors in extant records.

To explain the situation, one might assume Solomon was in this community only long enough to be called out for militia duty. This certainly is a logical hypothesis. However, in this case, it is not the correct one. Rather, Solomon "Harper" was not a Harper at all. The proof comes from a royal land grant, shown in figures 1 and 2, issued in the precise neighborhood in which I have put Solomon. It shows a Solomon *Hoover* in that precise neighborhood position, surrounded by men I have established as neighbors and associates of the militiaman Solomon.

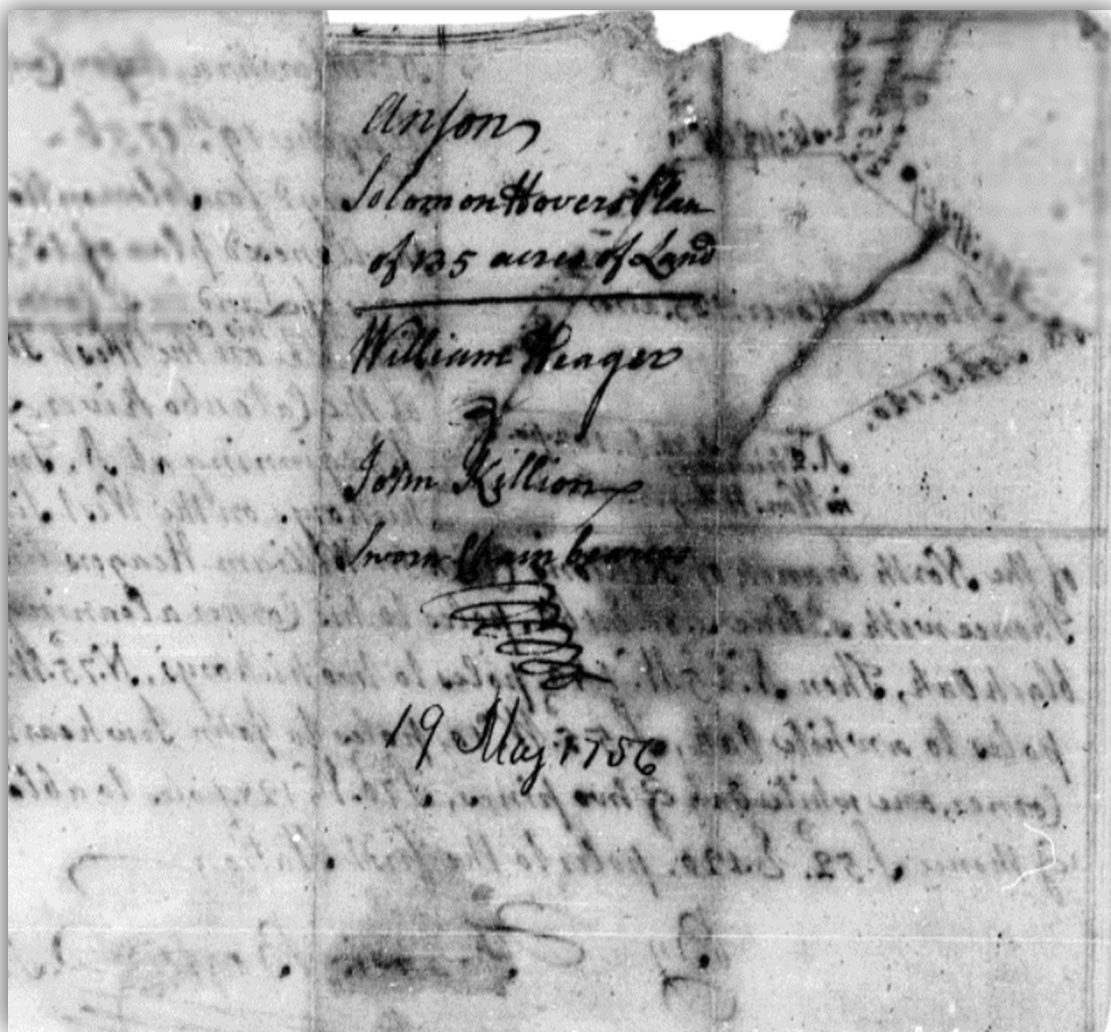
The description of Solomon Hoover's land as being on Killian's Creek joining Heager shows this is the Solomon "Harper" who was listed next to the same Heager on the militia list, and whose intimate neighborhood lay along the same Killian's Creek.

According to descendants, Solomon Hoover and wife Sybella migrated to Philadelphia in 1749 from the German Palatine, moving to North Carolina in the early to mid-1750s.³⁴ They remained in the Killian's Creek community for another generation. Their son Thomas lies buried in the Hoover Cemetery in Modern Lincoln County, on the Catawba County border (see map 3).

³³ Ibid., 45.

³⁴ See, for example, Terry R. Young, *Our Wyant Family* (Louisville, Ky.: Gateway Press, 1986), 189. And, "York County, Pennsylvania, 1733-1800: Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>)

Figure 1
Solomon Hoover Grant, Killian's Creek
(back of survey)³⁵



19 May 1756
Anson County
Solomon Hoover's plan, 135 acres of land
Chain carriers William Heager and John Killian

³⁵ North Carolina, Secretary of State, Land Grant Section, Warrants, Surveys and Related Documents, 1735-1957; Anson County, Grant no. 1348; orig. Grant Book 13, p. 137; LDS microfilm #192892. Best possible image.

Figure 2
Solomon Hoover Grant, Killian's Creek
(survey)

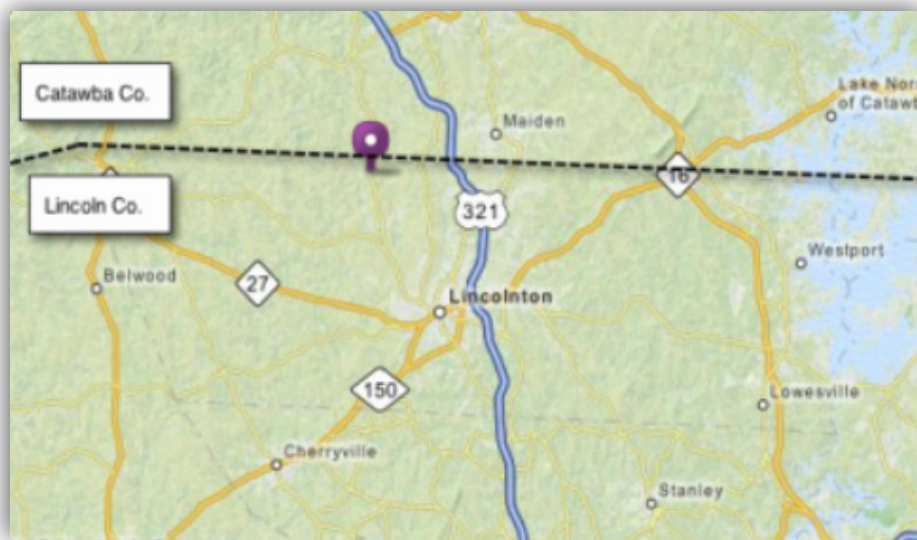


[abstract]

19 May 1756

Survey for Solomon Hoover for 135 acres, including his own improvement, on the west side of the Catawba River, beginning at two hickories on the west side of the north branch of Killions Creek in William Heager's line and joining John Jewheart's corner.

Map 3
Hoover Family Cemetery



With Solomon" Harper" correctly identified as Solomon "Hoover," research in western North Carolina may come to a close. We now have no evidence that Client's ancestor hailed from that region

Rachal Mills Lennon, CG

SOURCES

Microfilmed Originals

North Carolina, Secretary of State, Land Grant Section, Warrants, Surveys, FHL #192892
Surveys, and Related Documents, 1735-1957; Anson County.

Publications

- Bradley, Stephen E. Jr. *Early Records of North Carolina*. Volumes 1-11. Lawrenceville, Virginia: Privately Published, 1992-2002.
- Campbell, Wanda Suggs. *Bladen County, North Carolina, Abstract of Deeds, 1 and 2*. Edenton, North Carolina: Privately Published, 1980.
- . *Abstracts of Wills, Bladen County, North Carolina, 1734-1900*. Elizabethtown, North Carolina: Privately Published, 1962.
- Chalkley, Lyman. *Chronicles of Scotch Irish Settlement in Virginia*. Roselyn, Virginia: The Commonwealth Printing Co., 1912.
- Clark, June Murtie. *Colonial Soldiers of the South 1732-1774*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1983.
- Clark, Walter, et al., eds. *The State Records of North Carolina*. 26 volumes. Winston, Goldsboro, and Raleigh: Various publishers, 1886-1907.
- Haun, Weynette Parks. *Morgan District, North Carolina, Superior Court of Law and Equity, Book 1. Estate Records*. Durham, North Carolina: Privately Published, 1987.
- Hoffman, Laban Miles. *Our Kin: Being a History of the Hoffman, Rhyne, Costner, Rudisill, Best, Hovis, Hoyle, Wills, Shetley, Jenkins, Holland, Hambright, Gaston, Withers, Cansler, Clemmer, and Lineberger Families*. Charlotte, North Carolina: Privately Published, 1915.
- Holcomb, Brent H. *Bladen County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Early Deeds, 1738-1804*. Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1979.
- . *Anson County, North Carolina, Wills and Estates 1749-1795*. Clinton, South Carolina: Privately Published, 1975.
- . *Anson County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1749-1766, Abstracts of Wills and Estates. 1749-1795*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1980.
- . *Anson County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Book 2, 1757-1766, and 1763 Tax List*. Clinton, South Carolina: Privately Published, 1975.
- . *Tryon County, North Carolina, Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1769-1779*. Columbia, South Carolina: SCMAR: 1994.
- McBee, Mary Wilson. *Anson County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Early Records*. Volume 1. Privately Published: Greenwood, Mississippi, 1950.
- Moore, John Wheeler. *History of North Carolina from the Earliest Discoveries to the Present Time*. Raleigh, North Carolina: Alfred Williams and Company, 1880.
- Orme, Robert. *History of an Expedition Against Fort Du Quesne in 1755*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo, and Company, 1855.
- Philbeck, Miles S. *Bladen Precinct/County, North Carolina, Surviving Land Warrants and Surveys, 1735-1749, and Surviving Land Entries, 1743-1761*. No Place: Privately Published, 1985.
- Puett, Minnie Stowe. *History of Gaston County, North Carolina*. Charlotte, N. C.: The Observer Printing House, 1939.

SOURCES, CONTINUED

Ramsey, Robert W. "Captain Samuel Corbin's Company of Militia, The First Settlers of Gaston and Lincoln Counties." *Journal of North Carolina Genealogy* 12 (Winter 1966): 1773-79.

Saunders, William L. *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina*. Raleigh, N. C.: State Archives, 1886-1890.

Terry R. Young. *Our Wyant Family*. Louisville, Kentucky: Gateway Press, 1986.

Internet Offerings

Beghr, Steven. "Re: Peter Clubb [Klopp/Clobb] of North Carolina." *Clubb Family Genealogy Forum*. <http://genforum.genealogy.com/clclybb.mesages.581.html>.

Foster, Sharon. "Petrus PETER Klopp Clubb." *Rhoades/Wasson Whiteley/Barnes Families*. <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-igm.cgi?op=Get&db=.2298338&id=1554917395>.

Hodges, Francis R. "Dobbs County Militia Rolls, 1761-1781." *Old Dobbers*. <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~paday/dobbers>.

Hopes, Harry. "Why Move There?" *Hoppes Connections* (<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hoppes/WhyGoThere.html>).

Johnson/Johnston/Johnstone DNA Surname Project. <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com>.

Keagle, Matthew. Building A 1750s North Carolina Militia Impression." *Fort Dobbs State Historic Site*. <http://www.fortdobbs.org/assets/BuildingAMilitiaImpression.pdf>.

Killian, George. "RE: Killian's Settlement." *Killian-L Archives*. <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/KILLIAN/2001-09/1000782720>.

"North Carolina, Civil Action Court Papers, 1712-1970." Database with images. *Family Search*. <http://www.familysearch.com>.

"North Carolina Probate Files, 1735-1970." Database with images. *Family Search*. <http://www.familysearch.com>.

"Pearce's New Map - The State of North Carolina." *North Carolina Maps*. <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/ncmaps/id/8957/rec/3>.

Robinson, Joel. "Augusta Co., Va., Connection." *Joel Robinson* <http://www.joelrobinson.com/robinson/origin/augusta.html>.

"York County, Pennsylvania, 1733-1800: Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church." Database. *Ancestry*. <http://www.ancestry.com>.