

# *Descendants of Joseph Welch*

## *Generation No. 1*

I. JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> WELCH (*THOMAS<sup>A</sup>, JAMES<sup>B</sup>, WILLIAM<sup>C</sup>*) was born 1779 in Rutherford County, North Carolina<sup>1</sup>, and died 1866 in Macon County, North Carolina. He married CATHERINE DECK August 17, 1800 in Rutherford County, North Carolina, daughter of JACOB DECK and ELIZABETH BENDER/PAINTER. She was born 1780 in Virginia<sup>1</sup>, and died 1867 in Macon County, North Carolina.

Notes for JOSEPH WELCH:

Joseph is listed in Rutherford County, North Carolina, census records in 1800 and 1810.

Much of the information below comes from the research of Peggy Hooper.

1800 Aug 14 Sold 200 acres on Robinsons Creek patented to Thomas Welch, adjoining Reuben Melton. This land was sold by Joseph and his mother, Agnes, to John CANCELLOR.

1801 Jan 27 Land Grant, 35 acres on Hunting Creek adjoining WELCH & McGAUGHEY.

1801 Feb 11 Property, 200 acres on Hunting Creek.

1801 Dec 10 Property, 12 acres on Hunting Creek from brother David A. Welch adjoining John MELTON.

1821 Nov 17 Sold land on Indian Creek and South Fork Catawba River. (On the road from Lincolnton to Yorkville)

Farmer and Merchant. Joseph was co-partner with Robert Hall and James Truitt, as merchants, under the name of Joseph Welch and Company in Franklin. This business was sold to John Hall December 25, 1835.

From Macon County Court records: April 17, 1866: It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that Joseph Welch, late of Macon County, died without leaving Last Will and Testament, A.B. Welch was appointed Administrator of the estate. He filed bond in the amount of \$1000 with B.W. Bell and James Shepherd as security.

### Joseph Welch's Road

There was no road down the little Tennessee into Tennessee, so in the 1830's my g-g-g-grandfather, Joseph, sold several of his slaves and went into debt to build the first road down the river from his place to Bushnell. Neither the state nor the county could afford to build any roads unless completely necessary so they encouraged everyone who wanted to risk their own money, to build toll roads or turnpikes, as they were called in those days. Grandpa Joseph had hopes of making a wagonload of money but the venture proved unprofitable and he was forced to file bankruptcy. The road, which was built by Grandpa Joseph's remaining slaves and who ever else he could get to help, was 25 or more miles long. They used picks, shovels and drag pans to build the road that became a way for the settlers to reach Chambers, Hazel and Eagle Creeks. (Edited Source: "Remembered Lives" by Duane Oliver)

From Heritage of Macon County, Vol I, Macon County Historical Society (under Thomas P. Welch):

Joseph Welch, pioneer settler of Macon County. Joseph purchased land from the State of North Carolina when the lands acquired from treaty with the Cherokees were put up for sale in Waynesville in September 1821. This property was in the Cowee Community where Joseph first settled. In September 1831 Joseph sold to Joshua Hall 224 acres on the Tennessee River including the old Indian town house.

In November 1833 he sold other lands to Humphrey Posey. Later Joseph moved his residence to the mouth of the Tuckasiege River. An election precinct was established at his residence in September 1847, and in census records it is called Welches District. The General Assembly of North Carolina appointed 33 leading citizens to serve as the first Board of Magistrates for the newly formed Macon County, and Joseph Welch was among those taking the oath of office on March 29, 1829. He was a prominent citizen of the early days of the county. He served faithfully throughout the years in all activities of the county, as a Magistrate, juror, tax lister, election official and road overseer. Joseph had a charter for a turnpike from the mouth of the Tuckasiege to the Tennessee line. The Magistrates presided at the sessions of the Plea and Quarter Courts, which were regular jury courts. The affairs of the county were decided at these sessions. The tax rate was set each March, and Juries were appointed to view and lay off the county roads. The appointed overseers and neighborhood men were required to build the roads and keep them passable. Guardians and Administrators were appointed by the Magistrates. Joseph was given as security for the performance of the contract for the building of the first Macon County jail in 1829. He was one of the Commission appointed for the reviewing and laying out the streets of Franklin April 9, 1835. Joseph was co-partner with Robert Hall and James Truitt, as merchants, under the name of Joseph Welch and Company in Franklin. This business was sold to John Hall December 25, 1835.

The Cowee Baptist Church was organized March 15, 1828, and among the charter members was Joseph Welch. All of the charter members came from the Franklin Baptist Church.

Joseph and Catherine moved back to the Cowee Community near their daughter, Narcissa Welch Shepherd, when they had grown old. Joseph grew old in service to the new county and his sons, Thomas, Joseph Jackson and Albert Burton Welch followed his example as good and useful citizens of Macon County.

1821 Jan 4 Joseph Welch pays Elizabeth, relict of John Alexander, deceased, 500 pounds to relinquish all dower claims vs estate of her husband.

1821 May 8 Elizabeth McGaughey (Mrs. John) of Rutherford County, heir-in-law of John Alexander, deceased, appoints her brother Joseph Welch of Lincoln County as attorney to sell her share of 200 acres on the West side of the South Fork (Catawba River) Rutherford County.

1821 Aug 11 John Welch and James Welch of Monroe County, Kentucky heirs-at-law (as above) have right to share in 255 acres on South Fork, Catawba River in Lincoln County and appoint their brother Joseph Welch to sell the land and divide among the heirs, etc.

1829 Along with the law creating Macon County, from Haywood County, the North Carolina General Assembly appointed 33 leading citizens to the area to serve as magistrates. Joseph Welch was one of the men appointed. The counties were governed by a Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. These courts consisted of two dozen or more men, or justices, who received their commission from the Governor. Our Joseph was one of the justices. They held office for life and received no pay. The court met four times a year, hence the name Quarter Sessions.

Joseph was a very busy man. He was given as security for the builders of the new jail. Joseph was one of the members of the jury to lay off the road from Franklin down the river to the mouth of the Tuckasegee to connect with a turnpike which Joseph had a charter for to the Tennessee line. He was also in the group of men to lay out the streets of Franklin. (Joseph's father, Thomas Welch, Sr. was on similar committees when the town of Rutherfordton was laid out in the 1700's.) Joseph was in faithful attendance at all sessions of the Pleas and Quarter Sessions Courts in Franklin until he was an old man, following the footsteps of his father who had done the same in Rutherford County.

Cowee Baptist Church Book Volume 1: "The Constitution of the Baptist Church at Cowee in the Cherokee Purchase, Macon County, North Carolina, March 15, 1828. The presbytery consisting of Elders Humphrey Posey and Stephen White, met at Cowee by request, and after worship and a discussion on the subject of the meeting, fifteen members were found in readiness for a church. all of them members of the church at Franklin." These fifteen charter members were: Samuel Rose, Levi Truit, George Caler, Peter Mason, Joseph Welch, Jacob Caler, Lucrecy Rose., Susanah Truit, Hannah Dickey, Jaly Hibberts, Polly Edwards, Sarah Mason, Mary Mason, Roda Russell, and Sarah Fortune. On the same day, Samuel Rose and Levi Truit were examined and set apart by ordination to the office of deacon. George F. Caler was elected first clerk and treasurer. Humphrey Posey was elected as pastor on June 14, 1828.

At its organizational meeting the church set the third Sunday and preceding Saturday of each month as its regular meeting time and agreed that meetings would be held at Caler Schoolhouse, located at the forks of the road at the mouth of Caler Creek and Cowee Creek.

On June 26, 1830, George F. Caler, Elijah Shepherd and Samuel D. Bryson were appointed trustees and were instructed to locate and purchase a spot of ground on which to build a church. The land was deeded to the church by Samuel Decater Bryson and was located on a knoll in front of the present church building. The first building was a log structure which was used until 1868.

More About JOSEPH WELCH:

Occupation: Farmer

Notes for CATHERINE DECK:

One researcher has listed Catherine's father as Mathias Van Dyke of the Netherlands, but Mathias daughter, Catherine, married George Simmerly (Lincoln County marriage bond: May 6, 1794). Lorena S. Eaker's research has one Jacob Deck (Tack) marrying Christina Binder/Painter abt 1780 (Revolutionary War pension #S7677) and moving to Rutherford County after April 28, 1790 when twins sons were baptized (names not given). Jacob as the father of Catherine seems more probable, though I have not seen documentary evidence to prove this. I am going on the weight of the evidence.

Mathias Deck owned land in the Killians Creek area (present day Lincoln County), deeding a tract to his son Adam in 1763. For further information, see Eaker, Lorena S., German Speaking People West of the Catawba River in North Carolina, 1750-1800, pp. 135-137 (Mathias Deck family) and esp. pp. 324-325 (Johan Leonhardt Bender/Painter family).