

ALBEMARLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Albemarle Genealogical Society, 142 Waterlily Road, Coinjock, NC 27923

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NEXT MEETING

Due to the heavy weekend traffic in Currituck during the summer months, the next meeting of the Albemarle Genealogical Society will be held Wednesday, July 10, 7:00 pm at the Currituck County Library in Barco.

At Wednesday's meeting Sarah Downing will present:

"Photographers of the Sea, Sand and Sounds: Imaging the Outer Banks" which highlights the works of D. Victor Meekins, Ben Dixon MacNeill, Aycock Brown, Roger Meekins, Bruce Roberts and Drew Wilson. All photographed the area during the 20th century, and documented different periods of Outer Banks history. Their works are part of the collections of the Outer Banks History Center, a division of the North Carolina State Archives located in Roanoke Island Festival Park in Manteo.

About the Speaker:

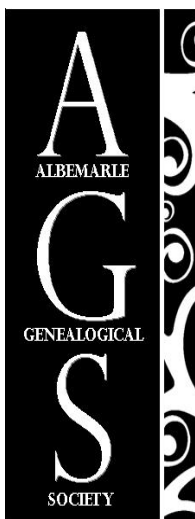
Sarah Downing is the Assistant Curator and Archivist at the Outer Banks History Center in Manteo. She is also author of several books about the Outer Banks, most recently *Hidden History of the Outer Banks*. Downing uses her literary voice to share little-known stories about her adopted home. Other books by Sarah Downing include *101 Glimpses of Nags Head*, and *Vintage Outer Banks: shifting sands and bygone beaches*.

CIVIL WAR ROSTER INDEX AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Historical Publications Section of the N. C. Department of Cultural Resources has made available online a cumulative master index of the first 18 volumes of "*North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster.*" This index of approximately 115,000 names of North Carolinians who served in the Civil War will be of great interest to historians, genealogists, and anyone with a Tar Heel ancestor who fought in that conflict.

This online cumulative index contains an entry for each man listed in the series. Each entry includes the volume number and page number where his service record is listed or where he is otherwise mentioned. It does not list company and regiment. Cross referencing of variant name spellings is available. The index database also contains entries for all the persons, places and military units mentioned.

<http://cwroster.ncdcr.gov>



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ALBEMARLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FALL CONFERENCE

Something for Everyone!

The 2013 Albemarle Genealogical Society Conference will be held on Saturday, September 28th from 8:00am to 4:00pm at Mt. Zion UMC, 6480 Caratoke Highway, Grandy, NC. Whether you are just getting started with your family history or you've been doing it for years, the AGS Conference has something for you. Offerings include: beginner and intermediate workshops, a Genealogy Drop-In Clinic for one-on-one attention, Civil War research, Internet research, North Carolina research and records, terrific door prizes and a chance to start adding those leaves to your family tree. Lunch is included in conference price.

Don't delay - register now!

UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS

On the following pages you will find information on the Sanderlin and Mercer families of Camden and Currituck Counties that was recently left at the Currituck County Library. The document is 20 pages long and will be digitized and the names indexed in the coming weeks. The author was William Thomas Wood; his birthdate is 1888, which would make his 125 today!

Also left at the library is a copy of "Company B: A Common Confederate Soldier's Diary for the Period 1861-1865" by author Faye Marsha Benjamin. The diary was written by an ordinary common confederate soldier, using the talking style of that era, to explain to those that were not there what it actually was like. The events and dates are correct but some of the narrative is the author's creative style in providing a better insight into what was happening during this period. We will be publishing entries from the diary starting in October's newsletter.

**Personal Notes on the
Sanderlin and Mercer Families
In
Camden and Currituck Counties of North Carolina.**

by: William Thomas Wood

-THE SANDERLIN FAMILY-

The Sanderlin family is part of the Wood Family History as **Sarah Frances Sanderlin** (1853-1920) of Moyock North Carolina married **James Thomas Wood** (1850-1942) of Norfolk County Virginia and the city of Norfolk on December 8th, 1886. Also Elizabeth Estelle Sanderlin (1871-1951) of Moyock North Carolina married **Caleb Luten Wood** (1852-1923) of Norfolk County Virginia on January 1st, 1890. They were the daughters of **Thomas Sanderlin** (1828-1896) and **Sarah Frances Mercer-Sanderlin** (1834-1900) of Moyock N.C.

In writing this sketch and outlining what I know of the Sanderlin Family it may be well for me to identify myself as **William Thomas Wood**, born 1888 in Norfolk Virginia and the son of **James Thomas Wood** and **Sarah Frances Sanderlin-Wood**, for when I say, for instance, grandfather **Thomas Sanderlin** or great aunt **Ann Mercer** our great aunt **Susan Sanderlin** my sister, brothers and Sanderlin cousins will say the same. Our children will add a great and our grandchildren will add a Great Great to acquire a proper perspective.

As far as we know at this time our Sanderlins first appeared in Camden County North Carolina, where they came from before that we have no exact knowledge. They may have come from Sanderling in Kent County or some other section of England direct to Camden County North Carolina for that time both Indiantown and Camden were ports of entry in America for ships from overseas. The first recorded Sanderlin is **John Sanderlin** of Garrington Island on the North River which is near Riddle in Camden County, this was in 1697. John married **Sarah Barcock** the granddaughter of **William Jennings** and there were two sons by this marriage, **Robert and John Jr.** These boys became the owners of considerable property, were large landholders, one of their properties was an extensive track of land which became known as the Sanderlin Swamp and in old Camden County Court records it was often referred to in establishing boundaries of land being bought and sold. After **Sarah Barcock-Sanderlin** died, John Sr. married again and by this union, name of second wife unknown, had four children – **Joseph, Collensworth, Priscilla, and Mary.** This family belonged to the Belcross Group and Mr. Ben Sanderlin and other genealogist are inclined to believe our line is also part of the Belcross Group of Sanderlin's as distinguished from the Kitty Hawk and other Sanderlin Groups.

In the 1790 census which was the first United States census, there were 14 heads of family by the name of Sanderlin, a total of 70 Sanderlin people, in Camden County of North Carolina. There were no Sanderlins in Currituck County or any of the seven counties of the Edenton District of North Carolina at that time. The Sanderlins during this period were Plantation owners, ship owners, farmers and other gained their

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livelihood from the sea, we know of one who was a Buccaneer. They were fairly well to do, some owned six, seven or eight slaves, mediumly educated for the times, respected and held a status among their neighbors.

Mr. Ben Garrett Sanderlin of Portsmouth Virginia is the Official Historian of the Sanderlin Family. In his book "Sanderlins in Pasquotank and Camden Counties of North Carolina" (which is in the Sergeant Room of the Norfolk Public Library File – 929.3 – S,) he has a great amount of information on his family which he has gathered over the years. **Mr. Ben Sanderlin** has visited and corresponded with members of the family in a great many states. Each year for the past thirty they have held a reunion of the Sanderlin Family at Deep Creek Virginia which is attended by seventy five or a hundred people.

Which one of the 14 Sanderlin fathers who lived in Camden in the year of 1790 was our ancestor we are unable to say. We know that our great grandfather was **Wilson Sanderlin** and his wife was Sarah. We learned this from **Sarah Cason Ferebee and Annie Adelia Ferebee** who have developed their line and published it in book form. Concerning the Cowell Family, which is one of their female lines, they have this – **Sarah Ferebee Cowell** was born in Currituck County North Carolina on March 25th, 1832. On April 5th, 1849 she married **Wilson L. Sanderlin** who was the son of **Wilson Sanderlin and Sarah his wife**. Wilson II was born April 25th, 1827 and died May 29th, 190. Away back in the Moyock days my grandparents and my mother often visited each other. **Uncle Wilse**, actually my great uncle, was **Wilson Sanderlin II** as his father was **Wilson Sanderlin I** and he had a son **Wilson Sanderlin III**. Aunt Betty, **Elizabeth Estelle Sanderlin-Wood**, told me that in her father's family there were four children – **Wilson, Thomas, John and Susan Sanderlin**. **Isaac Newton Fentress** the son of **Susan Sanderlin** who lives at Norfolk Virginia, confirms this and remembers his uncles **Wilson and Thomas Sanderlin** and has often visited with them at Shawboro and Moyock, in fact Ike was born in great uncle **Wilson Sanderlin's** home at Shawboro, North Carolina. Ike at 95 has the memory of the ordinary man of 60; he drives his car and attends church at Freemason Street Baptist Church. In 1910 he was our close neighbor as he and his wife **Betty Taylor-Fentress** bought **George Bank's** home at the corner of Claiborne and Rose Avenue.

I have talked to **Judge Mack Sanderlin** who is at present Judge of Records Court in Currituck County North Carolina and he remembers that his grandfather was **Wilson L. Sanderlin** and that his father was **John Sanderlin** who at various times held the positions of Deputy Sherriff, County Treasurer and Judge of the Records Court in Currituck County. **Luther L. Sanderlin** is presently Sherriff of Currituck County; he is the nephew of **Ben Garrett Sanderlin**. Their relation to our line is not known.

OUR SANDERLIN LINE AS WE KNOW IT IS AS FOLLOWS

Great Grandfather **Wilson Sanderlin I**, born circa 1790 in Camden County married Sarah, They had 4 children. Sarah married-2- Brothers, they had 2 boys and 2 girls. She Married-3- Pierce of South mills, NC, no record of children.

The four children of **Wilson Sanderlin I** and **Sarah** were **Wilson L. Sanderlin II** of Camden County, April 25, 1827 – May 29, 1901, married **Sarah Ferebee Cowell** on April 5, 1849. Sarah was born March 25, 1832 in Currituck County NC.

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The Cowell family is of special interest to genealogist as it is claimed this family has an unbroken line back to 1340. **Sarah Ferebee Cowell** was the daughter of **Benjamin Cowell** who was born June 2nd, 1804 and died March 15th, 1849 and was married on April 5th, 1827 to **Amanda Ferebee** who was the daughter of **Samuel Ferebee** and **Margaret (Peggy) Dauge** a relative of General **Peter Dauge** of Revolutionary War fame.

She was the granddaughter of **James Cowell** born in Currituck during 1773 and died October 15th, 1856. In 1800 he married **Elizabeth Ferebee** who was born Feb. 15th, 1771 in Currituck County and died Dec. 8, 1860. Elizabeth Ferebee was the daughter of **Captain Joseph Ferebee and Mary Dauge**.

She was the great granddaughter of **Solomon and Mary Cowell** who came to America from Plymouth England.

According to information furnished to **Sarah Cason Ferebee and Annie Adelia Ferebee** in 1938 by **Mrs. Mack Smith** the daughter of **Wilson L. Sanderlin II and Sarah Cowell-Sanderlin**, her parents had ten children who were – **Benjamin, Mary, Jane, Elizabeth, Wilson III, James, Love Adelia, Sarah, John, David**. Of these ten, three left descendants. They were **Wilson Sanderlin III, Love Adelia Sanderlin and John. Wilson Sanderlin III** B-Jan. 31st, 1863. D- Jan. 13th, 1935. On Jan. 15th, 1890 he married **Lydia Louise Franshaw** who was born Jan. 21st, 1872 and died Oct. 9th, 1954. They had two children, **Ruth Lucille Sanderlin** born Sept. 12th, 189 and **Robert Wilson Sanderlin**. Ruth Lucille married 1st. **Thomas A. Pope** on 9/12/1916, and 2nd **Charles F. Berlin** on 4/17/1937. She has three children. Mrs. Charles F. Berlin now lives in Charleston West Virginia, and has important information on the Sanderlin Family. She notes there were several Revolutionary War soldiers whose record in the Army make us eligible for the D. A. R. and the S. A. R. Also that her late cousin **Tully Bell Wilson** compiled the book “Family Records of **Thomas de Ferebee and Joseph Wilson of England**.” This book is invaluable to those interested in the Wilson and Ferebee families and their collateral and female lines. **Tully Bell Wilson** was for many years mayor of Elizabeth City North Carolina and his son **Kenyon Wilson** was an outstanding lawyer in Elizabeth City until his death.

Love Adelia Sanderlin was born ____ and died Nov. 13th, 1938 or 1939, she married **Mack Smith**. Their daughter **Annie Bray Smith-Hall**, (Mrs. J. Earl Hall,) was born April 7th, 1895 in Norfolk, Virginia. They have two children, a boy and a girl. Love Adelia's son **Harry Henry Smith** was born around 1898, he married **Sally Garrenton** of Riddle in Camden County North Carolina. They have three children and reside in Norfolk, Virginia. **Sally Garrenton's** father was born and brought up on Garrington Island on the North River near Riddle North Carolina, also her grandfather. It must have been her great great grandfather who gave the Island its name and lived there in 1697 along with **John Sanderlin** who also had a farm on this Island. **Mrs. Sally Smith** says the name is various spelled – Garrington – Garrenton – Garlington. Garrenton is the spelling used in her Family Bible For further information on Garrington Island and the Garrenton Family see Jesse Pugh's book “300 Years Along the Pasquotank: The Garrenton and the Sanderlin Families were among the first settlers in this area.

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John Sanderlin – married **Roxie Pierce** from South Mills in Camden County of North Carolina. They had 19 children of which 17 lived to reach maturity. One of their sons is **Judge Mack Sanderlin** the popular Judge of recorders Court in Currituck County North Carolina.

“The descendants of **Wilson L. Sanderlin II** and his wife **Sarah Ferebee Cowell-Sanderlin** may be interested in hearing that this couple lived to see their 50th wedding anniversary and that plans were made and invitations issued to celebrate the occasion. Before the date arrived **Mr. Wilson L. Sanderlin** was stricken with paralysis, the celebration was called off, a case of gold spoons was however presented this couple by Mr. Sanderlin’s nephew Mr. **Wilson Fentress**. These spoons and the Family Bible were later given by Mrs. Sanderlin to her son David. Mr. **David Sanderlin** has since died leaving no descendant, his widow has remarried and the writer understands has possession of the Bible and the gold spoons.”

Thomas Sanderlin of Camden County was born November 1, 1828 and died December 30, 1896. He married **Sarah Frances Mercer** of Camden County in 1850. Sarah was born June 20, 1834 and died February 25, 1900.

Thomas Sanderlin was the 2nd child of **Wilson Sanderlin I** and his wife Sarah. He and his wife **Sarah Frances Mercer-Sanderlin** lived at Moyock in Currituck County of North Carolina. They had ten children and were my grandparents. Their children and grandchildren detailed later.

John Sanderlin of Camden County was born about 1830. We have very little information on John Sanderlin, at one time he lived in Norfolk Virginia and had at least four children, we believe one was named Acy and one was named Frances. John Sanderlin was the 3rd child of Wilson Sanderlin I and his wife Sarah.

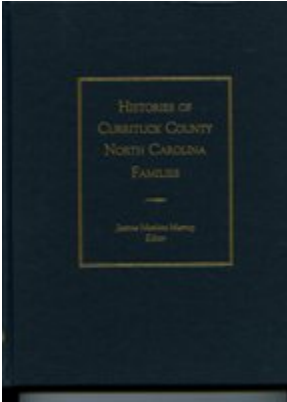
Susan Sanderlin of Camden County was born about 1832. She married **Samuel Mercer** of Camden County. Samuel was the son of **Samuel Mercer and Frances Cox Mercer**. **Susan Sanderlin** was the 4th child of **Wilson Sanderlin I** and his wife Sarah. **Susan Sanderlin-Mercer** and **Samuel Mercer** had two children. **William Thomas Mercer** born November 28th, 1849, (he was called Billy Tom) and **John T. Mercer** born November 1st, 1851.

After **Samuel Mercer** died his widow **Susan Sanderlin-Mercer** married **David Fentress**. Their five children were **Ophelia**, born Sept. 28th, 1858, married **Stant White**. **Sarah Frances**, born June 20, 1860 and died October 20, 1861. **Wilson** born November 24, 1864 (presented gold spoons). **Caleb** born April 27, 1868 and married **Nettie Ballance**. **Isaac Newton** born November 13, 1869 and married **Betty Taylor**.

After **Susan Sanderlin-Mercer-Fentress** died **David Fentress** married **Julia Frost**.

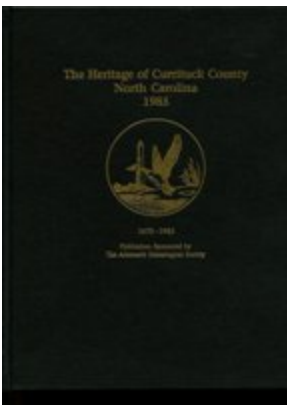
Next newsletter will continue with **Cox-Mercer-Sanderlin** information.

Publications for Sale by AGS



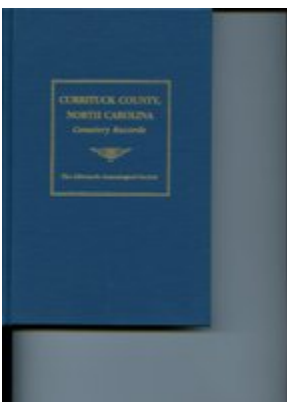
Histories of Currituck County, NC Families--\$40.00 + tax

This is an 8 1/2 x 11 hardback book with the cover and spine stamped in gold. The book has over 350 pages, published in 2005. It contains over 125 stories of Currituck-connected families, many with pictures. It has a full name index.



Currituck County Heritage, NC--\$65.00 + tax

This is a reprint of the 9 x 12 1985 edition. It is an 8 1/2 x 11 hardback book with the seal of Currituck County stamped in gold on the front cover. This book with over 500 pages includes the history of Currituck County, NC. It contains over 500 stories and has over 700 pictures of Currituck-connected families. It has a last name index.



Currituck County, NC Cemetery Records--\$20.00 + tax

A compilation of data from tombstones and unmarked grave sites from cemeteries (predominantly white) in Currituck County, NC. Published by Gateway Press, Inc. 1995, the hardcover 6 x 9 book has 328 pages and is printed on acid free paper, Smythe sewn, and bound in cloth with spine and cover stamped in gold. The fullname index includes indexing of possible maiden names, former married names and nicknames.

Histories of Currituck County, NC Families; Currituck County Heritage, NC; and Currituck County, NC Cemetery Records can also be purchased at the Currituck County Public Library, 4261 Caratoke Hwy, Barco, NC 27917.

