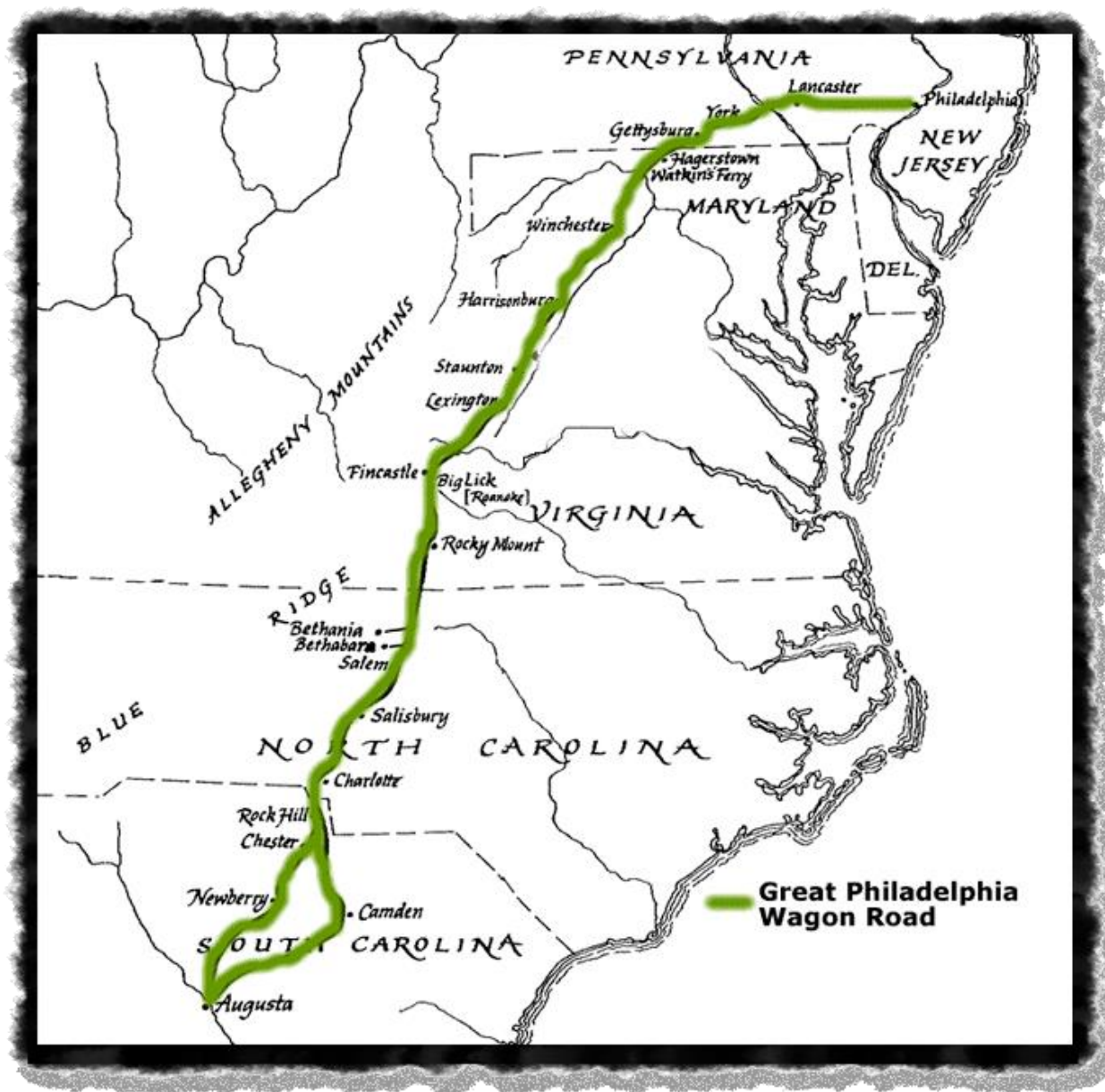


The Great Wagon Road



Zoom Handout
February 9, 2021

Linda Allred Cooper

www.MyAllredFamily.com

A Short Review: We know Solomon Allred was in Manchester, England in 1695 because he was mentioned in a letter his father wrote to his cousin, Phineas Pemberton, who was living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Evidence tells us Solomon remained with his father until John's death in 1701, then he came to America, most likely as an indentured servant. The average term of Indenture in Pennsylvania was 5-7 years¹ which is a match to Solomon marrying around 1710 and working long enough to maybe earn some money towards buying a tract of land, but he still needed some financial help from his wealthy cousin. The 1719/20 letter proves Solomon was interested in purchasing some land "on the north side of Nottingham" in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Solomon appears in Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1719/20 when he wrote to Israel Pemberton asking for help purchasing a tract of land.*

In 1724 and 1730 Solomon is listed as a land owner on tax lists for West Nottingham

Solomon is listed next to Jeremiah York as a Land Owner On the 1724 and 1730 Tax Lists for West Nottingham Township Chester County, Pennsylvania

★ Found by Allred DNA Project Manager and Researcher John Allred with the help of his niece Beverly Allred Schroeder in a list of Quakers coming to America on a microfilm from the Mormon church (Cope Collection): Role 517003 of the LDS church.

Solomon was listed as a landowner on the 1724 and 1730 tax lists for Chester County, Pennsylvania.² However, after 1730 he disappears from records. Where did Solomon and his family go?

The population of Pennsylvania, Delaware, northeast Maryland had exploded between 1682 when William Penn's ships arrived with the first Quakers and 1730 when Solomon disappears from records. Europeans, primarily from England and Germany along with the Scots-Irish had claimed all the available land and more immigrants were arriving every day. To add to the population, most of those original families raised large families of their own and now had adult children looking for their own land to live on. The Allred family was no different.

¹ Indentured Servants in Colonial Virginia online at <https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/>; Indentured Servitude in Pennsylvania online at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indentured_servitude_in_Pennsylvania

² Chester County, PA tax lists can be found via several websites and libraries. One resource is: Chester County, PA 18th Century Tax Records online at <https://www.chesco.org/1729/18th-Century-Tax-Records> There is some debate over whether or not Solomon was a land owner or was being taxed for owning property such as livestock, farm equipment, etc. Regardless, he is listed on the tax records and that is what is important for this report.

1737	1746	1746
Johnny Aldred Inherited the Entire Estate from Samuel Finley Prince George's County, Maryland	William Allred Alred's Purchase Prince George's County Maryland	Jeremiah York Terrapin Neck across the river from Prince George's County Maryland

By reasoning Solomon married in 1710, and children arrived every 2 years or so, he could have had many children by the time he disappears from records in 1730.³ These children, some of them adults or at least older teens by 1730, would have been thinking of their future and looking for their own land to settle on.

Probate and court records prove John Allred, grandson of Solomon, had ties to both Prince George's County, Maryland and Chester County, Pennsylvania.⁴ In addition, William Allred, son of Solomon, owned land in Prince George's County, Maryland.⁵ Jeremiah York, who had also lived in Chester County, PA⁶, owned land directly across the Potomac River from William Allred's land in 1746.⁷

Looking at the two maps, you can see how the Allreds' movements mirrored the path of The Great Wagon Road. It is easy to see how The Great Wagon Road was the route they traveled.

³ No birth control meant a new baby arrived every 2 years or so.

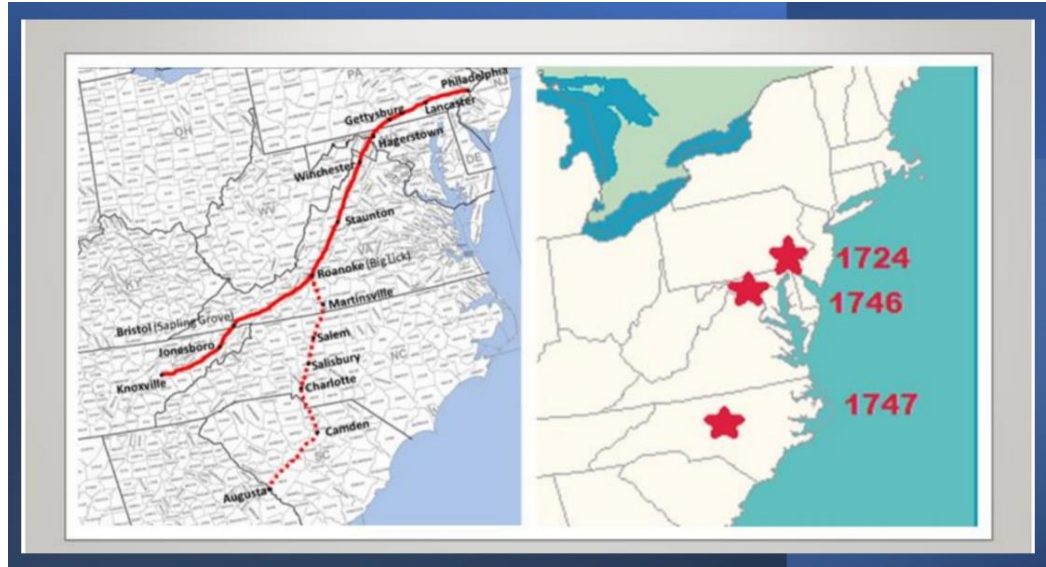
⁴ Some (but not all) of the documentation proving the connection between the Allred family and Samuel Finley can be found in Maryland Will Book DD1 21: 846; Prince George's County Register of Wills, Original Administration Bonds, Samuel Finley, MSA C1147-10, box 10, folder 5; On October 29, 1737 Robert Finley filed a bond there as administrator of Samuel's estate in Pennsylvania Chester County, Pennsylvania Archives, Probate File 614;

⁵ Some (but not all) of the documentation proving William Allred owned land in Prince George's County, MD can be found in Prince George's County, Maryland, Land Records 1746-1749; pg 24; published by TLC Genealogy, FHC SLC;

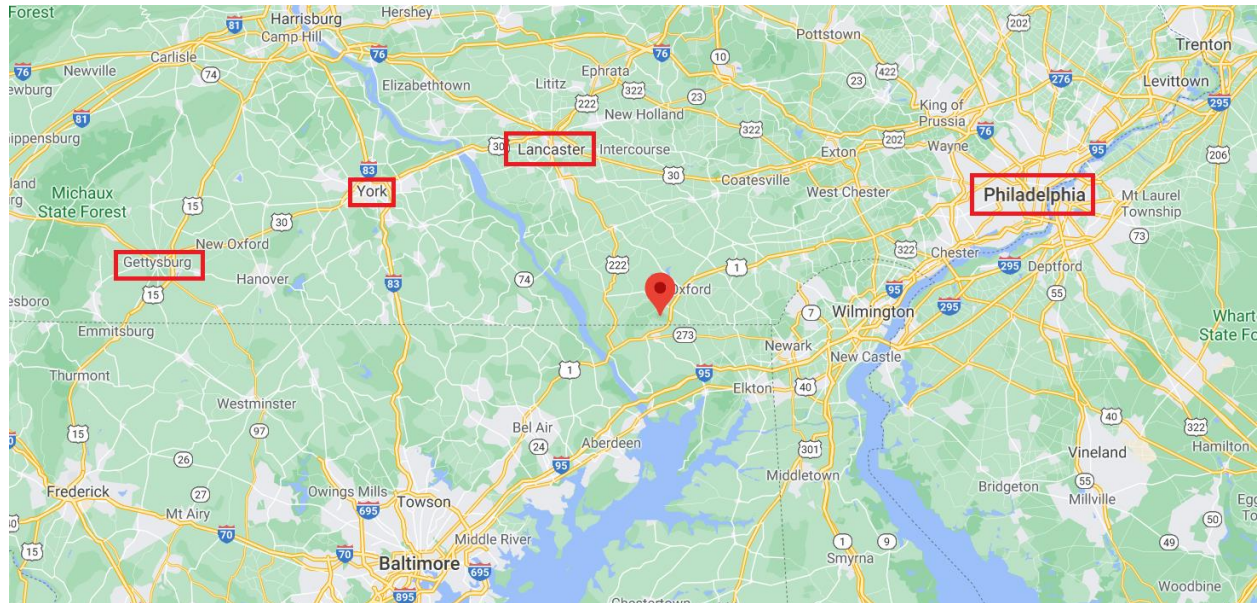
⁶ Chester County, PA tax lists can be found via several websites and libraries. One resource is: Chester County, PA 18th Century Tax Records online at <https://www.chesco.org/1729/18th-Century-Tax-Records>

⁷ Some (but not all) of the documentation proving Jeremiah's land purchase can be found in the research report A Revised Timeline For Jeremiah York, A Narrative of His Life from 1683- c1765 by Ronald E. York and James Earl York III online at www.MyAllredFamily.com <https://www.myallredfamily.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Revised-Timeline-v1.0.pdf>

In Colonial Times, the term “Great” meant the road allowed you to travel a long distance. The Great Wagon Road began at the Port of Philadelphia,⁸ just one block from Benjamin Franklin’s print shop, and ran west through the town of Lancaster, turning southwest toward York and Gettysburg.⁹



On today’s map you can see how Highway 30 follows along the same route. The red marker shows where Solomon Allred and Jeremiah York lived in West Nottingham township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.



⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Wagon_Road

⁹ *A Ramble Through Rowan’s History: A Trip Along The Great Wagon Road*, video produced by Rowan Public Library and available on YouTube



The Great Wagon Road was originally an Indian trading path and Solomon Allred would have heard of it during the 1720's when he lived in Chester County, PA. Even then it was a popular route for trades-people and migrants who were traveling west away from Philadelphia. At that time, the path was

very narrow, allowing one person at a time or several walking one behind the other to pass which was the traditional way of travel for the Native Americans for centuries. However, as more and more people used the path, it became worn and wider, eventually allowing for horse-back riding and pack animals.



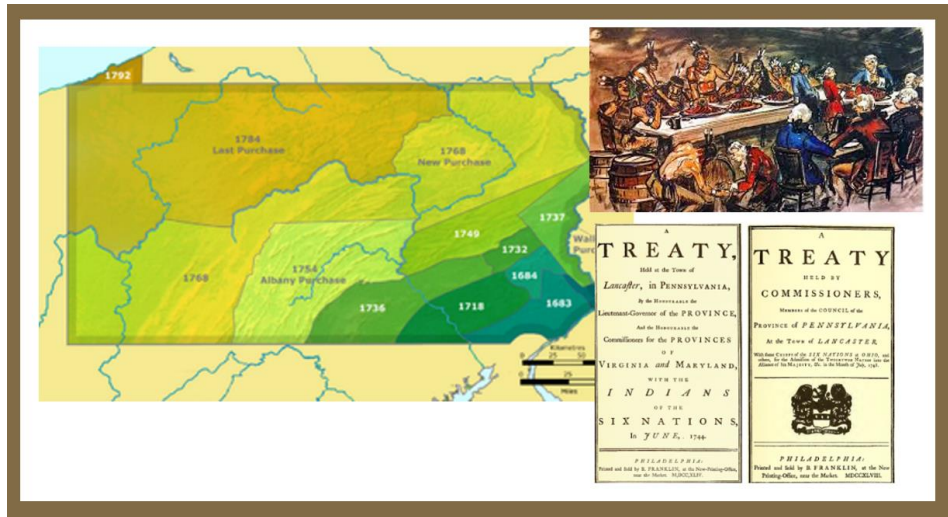
Prior to the 1740's, people could travel in relative safety between Philadelphia and Gettysburg as most of the Native Americans living in that area were peaceful. But as more and more Indians were pushed west and off their land by migrating settlers, they understandably became more and more hostile. The Treaty of Lancaster in 1744 established colonists' rights to travel and settle along the Indian Road south from Gettysburg. Thus, the Indian Trading Path going south into Virginia became part of The Great Wagon Road. Traffic increased dramatically as thousands of settlers began moving west and south in search of new land to claim as their own.¹⁰

Why was a Treaty needed? Native Americans (Indians) were living on the land now known as Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia for hundreds (maybe thousands) of years before White Men (Europeans) arrived. The various tribes lived in relative harmony, with few hostilities, each respecting the other and the land, and leaving little Carbon Footprint or permanent signs of development. However, European settlers immediately claimed land as their own, began clearing woods and forests for farming and homesteads, fencing off sections as their land holdings increased, building villages and towns, and pushing the Indians, sometimes violently, further west. The Six Nations began when the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca -- banded together to form a confederacy to protect themselves from the onslaught of European settlers. A sixth tribe, the Tuscarora, joined in 1722.¹¹ As these tribes were being pushed off their land, anger grew and violence increased. Indians attacked and killed settlers. Settlers attacked and killed Indians.

¹⁰ *Treaty of 1744 - A rousing "Jo-Ha!"* online at http://visithistoriclanaster.com/history_art/treaty_of_1744 ; *The Great Indian Treaty of 1744* online at <https://unchartedlanaster.com/2019/09/03/the-great-indian-treaty-of-1744/>

¹¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iroquois>

The Lancaster Treaty of 1744 was signed after two weeks of negotiations between colonial leaders from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia and the Indian chieftains of the Six Nations. This important conference had two main purposes: secure



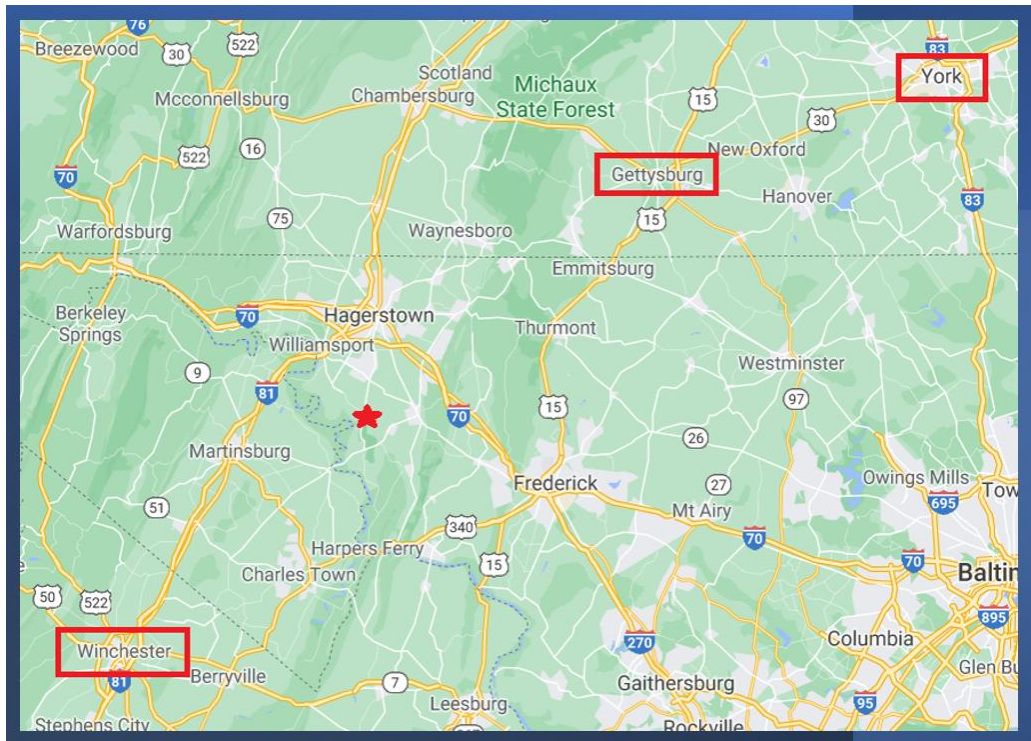
Native American land for English settlement and receive a guarantee that the Indians would not join with the French in the border war. For a short period of time, traveling south along the Great Wagon Road was peaceful, but peace did not last. Settlers moved further west, ignoring the Treaty, and Indians retaliated with attacks. It was during this time that our Allred ancestors began moving south.

The maps below show how the 1744 Treaty of Lancaster, our Allred ancestors' movements and The Great Wagon Road correspond.



The map on the left shows the dividing line between land to the east ceded by the Six Nations and the land to the west where the Indians could live in peace per the Treaty of 1744.¹² The map in the middle shows where our Allred ancestors were living.¹³ The map on the right shows The Great Wagon Road.

The 1744 Treaty allowed settlers to move further south from Pennsylvania into Maryland and into the newly created Frederick County, Virginia (founded 1743). The town of Winchester, Virginia was founded in 1744 at the site of an abandoned Shawnee Indian camping ground.¹⁴



Winchester is where the White and Hoge families settled and where our Allred ancestors along with members of several other original Randolph County, NC families are found in the 1740's including Julian, O'Dell/Odel, York, Ferree, Pugh and Trogdon.¹⁵ Why am I mentioning these families? Because they are all your ancestors! You will have to wait until a future presentation to find out how and why they are important to our Allred Family History! The red marker on the map shows where William Allred and Jeremiah York were living in the mid 1740's.

It is important to note the Great Wagon Road was not a defined road or path. The route varied depending on weather and the mode of travel. People walking could travel over rocky terrain or through heavily wooded forests easier than someone on horseback and much easier than a team of animals (oxen, horses, mules) pulling a wagon. During dry times, some routes were preferred, but those routes may have been avoided during rainy times. A close-up of the 1751 Fry Jefferson map below shows 2 different routes, one marked "Philadelphia Wagon Road" and one marked just "Wagon

¹² Native American Territories online at www.virginiaplaces.org

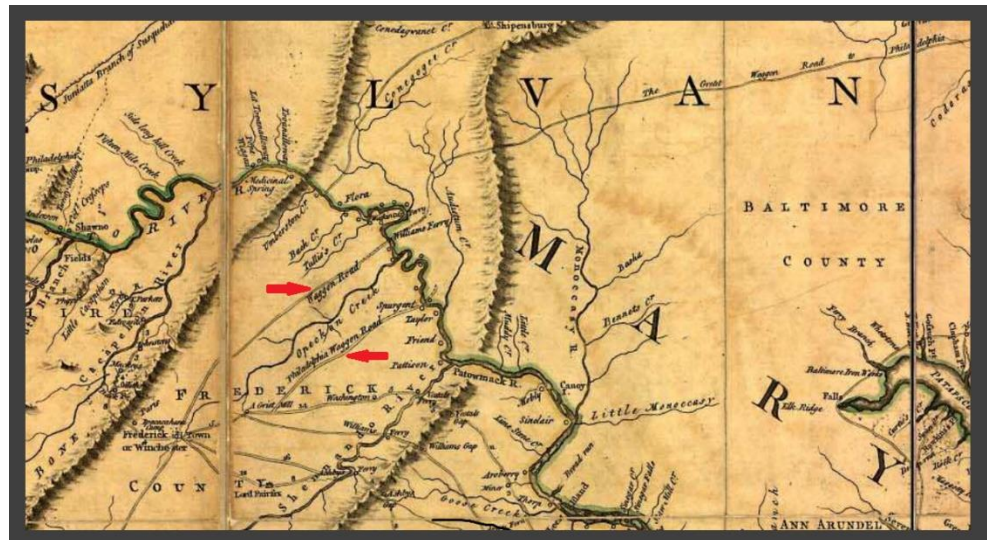
¹³ the map in the middle and on the left are from the research report Those Original North Carolina Allreds online at <https://myallredfamily.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/2017-Presentation-Print-Out-1.pdf>

¹⁴ Winchester, VA Chronological History online at www.winchesterva.gov

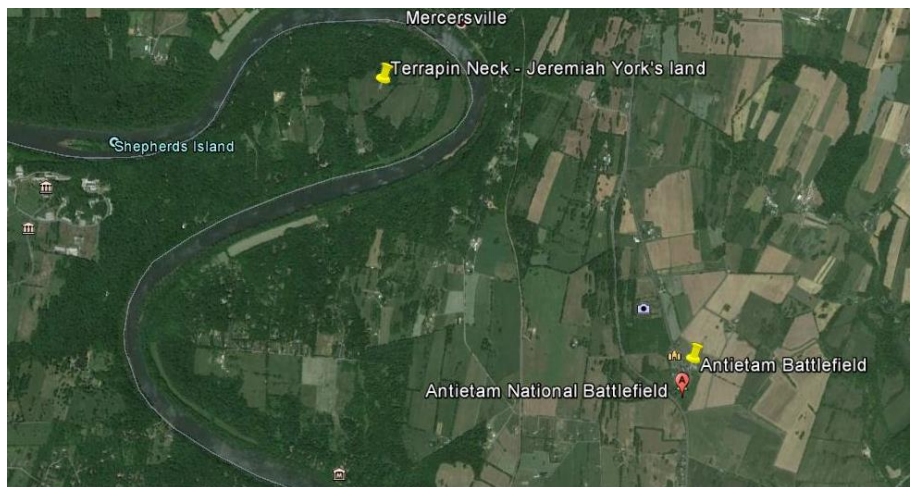
¹⁵ Mention of these families can be found in several books including *Sorting Out The Early Julian/Juliens* by Paul Rowland Julian and *The Julian Family* by Frances Julian Hine; Descendants of Rene Julian and Mary Bullock along with Frederick County and Virginia court, land, probate and tax records. More on these families and their connection will be in a future presentation/report.

Road”.¹⁶ In this case, my guess is the route depended on the Potomac River water level and where the best place was to cross the tributaries of Antietam Creek.

Note the “Waggon Road” crosses the Potomac River at William’s Ferry. The “Philadelphia Waggon Road” crosses the Potomac a little further south. This is an excellent example of how the paths changed depending on the weather and mode of transportation.



Note the “Philadelphia Waggon Road” begins just across the Potomac on the Maryland side of the river, then meanders south towards Winchester whereas the “Waggon Road” comes all the way from Philadelphia, across the Potomac at Williams Ferry, then continues south to Winchester.

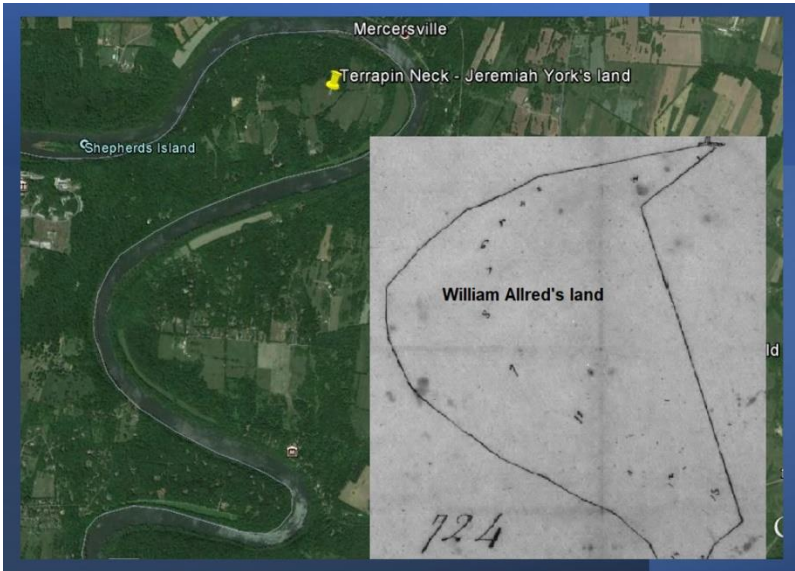


As you saw earlier, Jeremiah York owned land in Frederick County, Virginia¹⁷. This land, located on a peninsula formed by a sharp curve in the Potomac River, was called Terrapin Neck.

¹⁶ 1751 Fry-Jefferson map depicting the Virginia Colony and surrounding provinces in 1752 online at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Wagon_Road

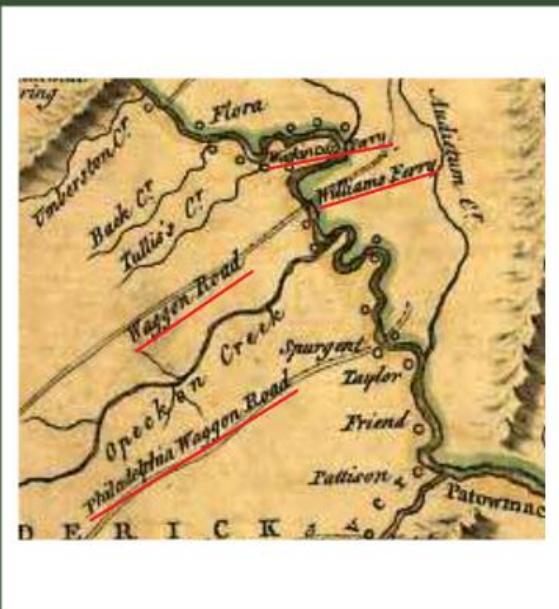
¹⁷ Fairfax. *Land Grant to Jeremiah York*. Frederick Co., Virginia. 6/7/1751; Library of Virginia, Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants, Northern Neck Grants and Surveys, Book G, p.541, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/NN-5/292-2/292_0483.tif. A detailed and fully cited research report on Jeremiah York and his land, written by Ronald E. York and James Earl York III, is on my website at <https://myallredfamily.com/york/>

William Allred purchased 3 tracts of land 1746. This land, part of a larger tract called Pile's Delight, was located in Frederick County, Maryland, just across the Potomac River from Jeremiah York's land.¹⁸ The



plat map for Pile's Delight allows us to place it on today's map, fitting perfectly into the curvature of the Potomac River across from Terrapin Neck.

Based on the 1751 map's references to the "Waggon Road" path, it appears a portion of The Great Wagon Road went across or passed very close to the land William Allred owned in 1746.



¹⁸ Prince George's County, Maryland, Land Records 1746-1749; pg 24; published by TLC Genealogy, FHC SLC and Deed Recorded Dec 3, 1746 Prince George's County, Maryland, Land Records 1746-1749; pg 24; published by TLC Genealogy, FHC SLC and Frederick County, MD, Deed Book B, pg 627-628. Frederick County, MD, Land Records, Liber B Abstracts 1748-1752, by Patricia Abelard Anderson; pg 70

It is important to note the town of Williamsport, Maryland claims to be the site of Williams' Ferry. Perhaps I have mis-interpreted the 1751 map. Maybe the point where William's Ferry and the Waggon Road crossed the Potomac was a little further north and the point where the Philadelphia Waggon Road crossed was across William Allred's land. The 1751 map was drawn based on survey techniques at the time whereas Google Maps is a photograph made by satellites – and the river contours could have changed over the centuries, but I think I have made a good case for a section of The Great Wagon Road crossing William Allred's land.

When did the Allreds Travel Down The Great Wagon Road:

John

- last appeared in Chester County, PA court records **1738**¹⁹
- His first child, Elizabeth Allred, was born **1747** in North Carolina per Bible records.²⁰

Thomas

- John's Land Warrant contains the phrase "includes his and Thomas Allrid's improvements". Improvements includes any buildings, houses, cleared land for farming, etc., all of which, of course, take time to build/accomplish. **This tells us John and Thomas were living together**

Solomon

- Although Solomon's first Land Grant is dated 1752, a land grant for Herman Husband²¹ included "Solomon's improvements" telling us **Solomon was living near John and Thomas before moving south to the land he received his 1752 grant for.**

William

- William sold his land in Frederick County, Maryland in 1752 and reappears in a North Carolina Land Grant in **1762.**²²

This gives us a Time Frame for when our Allred ancestors traveled down the Great Wagon Road from Pennsylvania and Maryland to North Carolina. It appears John, Thomas and Solomon were the first to arrive in North Carolina, **by 1747**, and William followed a few years later.

¹⁹ Orphans Court Minutes, Chester County, PA 1734-1746/7, pg 66; by Chester County Historical Society.

²⁰ William Horner Family Bible owned by descendants living in Hamblen County, Tennessee.

²¹ North Carolina Land Grants, Grant #138, Book #14, Page 410, File #639, NC Archives #12.14.95.636

²² North Carolina Land Grants, Grant #76, File #319, MARS # 12.14.95.316



John and Thomas
1738 - 1755

Solomon
1752

William
1752 - 1762



This means they were among the very first white settlers to travel south of Winchester, Virginia.

Despite its current name, the southern part of The Great Wagon Road (south of Winchester)



was by no means passable by wagons until later colonial times. The 1751 Fry-Jefferson map notes the term "Waggon" only north of Winchester, Virginia. The popular Conestoga Wagon, capable of carrying up to 3 tons, was too wide and too heavy to navigate the narrow path when our Allred ancestors traveled. It came into use on The Great Wagon Road in the late 1750's after thousands had already traveled down the road and widened it.²³

²³ <https://www.history.com/topics/westward-expansion/conestoga-wagon> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conestoga_wagon

By 1752 Solomon, John and Thomas were already living in North Carolina so had traveled The Great Wagon Road while it was little more than a narrow path through the woods. One year later, in 1753, a group of wagon travelers reported that "the good road ended at Augusta" (now Staunton, Virginia).²⁴ The road was so narrow and rough that only travelers on foot or horseback could use it; the farther south it went (from Staunton into the wilderness), the more impassable it became. As time went by and more and more settlers made their way along the trail, they cut trees, found suitable fords across rivers,



and worked around obstacles until wagons eventually could pass.²⁵ But in the mid 1740's when our Allred ancestors traveled down the road, it was almost impassable so they walked or rode horses, depending on the terrain, perhaps leading pack animals and livestock which carried all their personal belongings and

tools needed to build a homestead. Keep in mind they would have had to carry all their belongings, tools, household items, etc. with them so they could homestead once they arrived in North Carolina.

The most popular time to travel down The Great Wagon Road was mid-late summer – the Dry Months. Typically, these months see the least amount of rain, therefore less mud and lower water levels in streams and rivers they had to cross. By all accounts, it was never a comfortable route. In general, travelers preferred high and dry roads, but they also needed regularly spaced water sources for their horses (and for themselves). As more people traveled the road, trading posts, small settlements and Inns began to appear and were generally built near flowing springs. It is possible our Allred ancestors came across some of the very early settlements and found refuge along the way at trading posts or Inns, but they would have been provided only the most basic food and shelter.²⁶



²⁴ Great Wagon Road on Wikipedia at

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Wagon_Road#York, Pennsylvania to Winchester, Virginia via Old Monocacy Road](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Wagon_Road#York,_Pennsylvania_to_Winchester,_Virginia_via_Old_Monocacy_Road)

²⁵ <https://www.ncpedia.org/great-wagon-road>

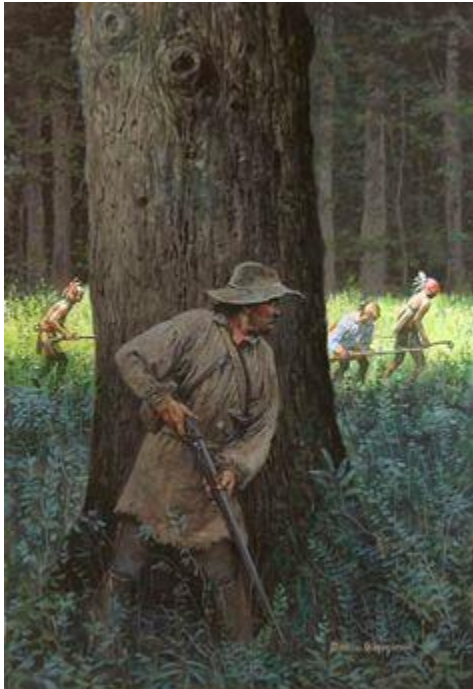
²⁶ Ibid



From Winchester to Augusta (now Staunton, VA), The Great Wagon Road traversed the Shenandoah Valley. A network of paths followed natural routes along high ground and over shallow fords at rivers, streams and creeks. Many of the European immigrants who disembarked ships at Philadelphia headed directly into the southern “backcountry” along the Great Wagon Road.²⁷ On today’s map, Hwy 11 follows the most

popular route of The Great Wagon Road through the Shenandoah Valley, taking into the consideration that weather may have caused some of the travelers to divert and find drier passageways.

Although it is possible our ancestors stopped along the way to set up a homestead, the wilderness was full of dangers including Indians who were increasingly hostile and prone to attack. To stay in one spot for more



than a day



meant giving the Indians a chance to find you, murder you and steal your belongings. Most likely our ancestors traveled as quickly as possible down the Shenandoah Valley and into the Carolinas and relative safety. By the late 1730’s most Indians in central North Carolina had either died from diseases they were exposed to by Europeans or they had been pushed westward off their land. From 1738-1740 smallpox decimated the Cherokee and Waxhaw and incoming European settlers quickly took over their land pushing the remaining Indians west.²⁸

How Much Time Did It Take To Travel The Great Wagon Road?

In 1748, unmarried male members of the Moravian Church, known as Moravian Single Brothers, who later founded Bethabara, Bethania and Salem in the North Carolina Piedmont, wrote about a pioneering trip by one of their members, Morgan Bryant, which had taken 3 months from the Shenandoah Valley to the Yadkin River (NOT the entire Great Wagon Road). They recorded that at one place Bryant had to take the wheels off his wagon and carry it to the top of a hill in pieces. Five years later, in 1753, the Single Brothers made the same trip in 6 weeks.²⁹ This shows how the road was widened and improved after our Allred ancestors traveled down it.

²⁷ <http://www.wildernessroad-virginia.com/routes/the-great-road/>

²⁸ <https://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/american-indian/handouts/timeline>

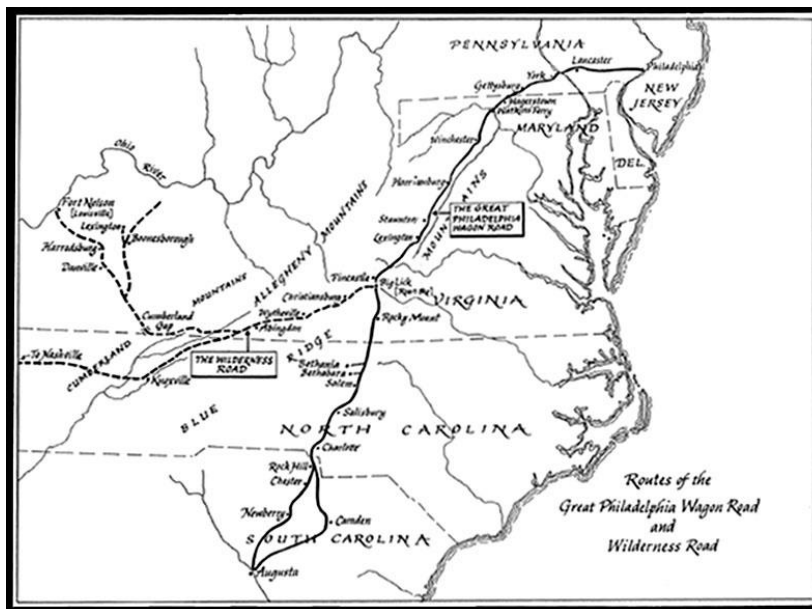
²⁹ <https://www.ncpedia.org/history/colonial/philadelphia-wagon-road>

Why Did They Come To North Carolina?



On September 15, 1742, King George II and his Privy Council approved the boundaries of the land owned by John Lord Carteret, 2nd Earl Granville. Earl Granville's agents immediately began advertising in England that the land was available for a low price that essentially covered the cost of survey and filing fees. As immigrants

arrived in Philadelphia, word quickly spread causing movement south to land and opportunity. This was a golden opportunity for settlers to claim their own land, to receive a Granville Grant, for very little cost – a dream come true for many emigrants.



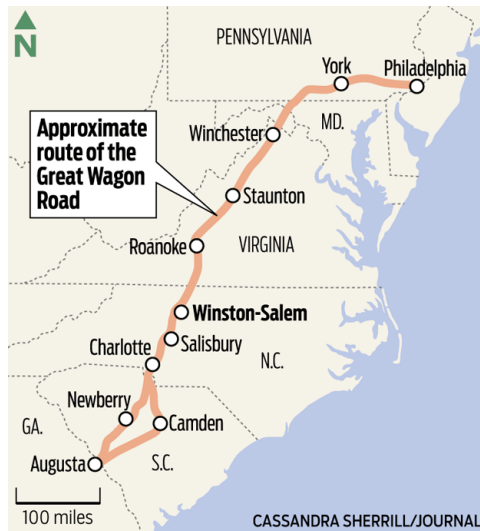
Thus, our Allred ancestors traveled down The Great Wagon Road from Winchester to Big Lick, known today as Roanoke, Virginia. From there the road split with one route going west across the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky and Tennessee. Our ancestors took the southern route, The Carolina Road, heading into North Carolina. This road was favored by Colonists for the same reason it had been

favored by their predecessors, the Algonquin and Iroquois Indians, because of numerous springs along its route.³⁰



³⁰ The Carolina Road online at <https://www.loudounhistory.org/history/carolina-road/>

Although the remaining North Carolina Indians were relatively peaceful, our ancestors still faced danger.



The remoteness from civilization and wilderness drew many bandits and scoundrels hoping to take advantage of travelers along the desolate Carolina Road in the 1740's. In 1742, the Virginia General Assembly described the travelers as "drivers, vagrant people peddling and selling horses, and either buy or steal a great number of cattle which they drive through the frontier counties, taking them under pretense that they cannot separate them from their own". It was so bad that a 1747 land grant



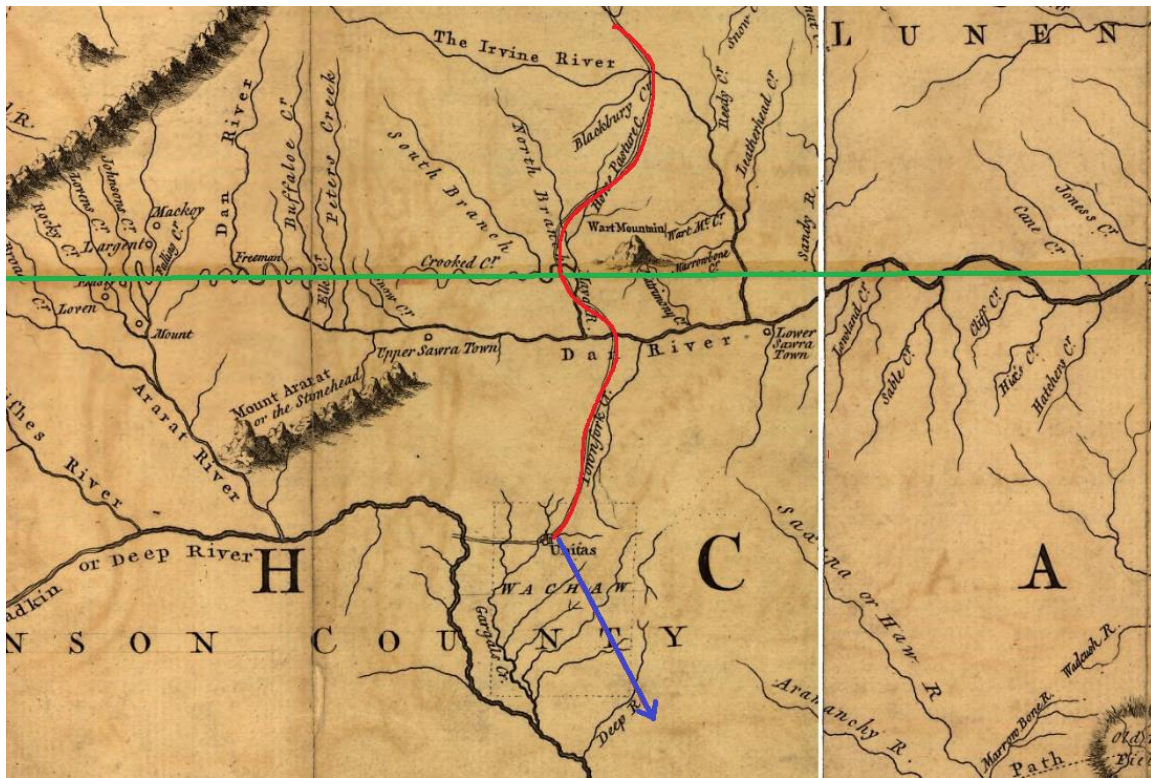
referred to the Carolina Road as "Rogues Road".³¹

Some historians claim today's Hwy 220 from Roanoke, VA to Winston-Salem, NC follows in the steps of the settlers who traveled along the Carolina Road in the 1740's.³² However, the 1751 Fry Jefferson map shows the route slightly different from Roanoke through today's Winston-Salem.³³ Below is a close-up section of the 1751 map. The red line follows the Carolina Road into North Carolina to Wachaw which eventually became Winston-Salem (Wachovia). The blue arrow shows the most direct route to our Allred ancestors' land. The green line depicts the North Carolina / Virginia State line.

³¹ Ibid

³² Carolina Road online at <http://www.wildernessroad-virginia.com/routes/carolina-road/> and The Carolina Road online at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carolina_Road

³³ The Great Debate Over The Great Wagon Road published in the Winston-Salem Journal, online at https://journalnow.com/news/local/the-great-debate-over-the-great-wagon-road/article_d1a91b34-fc9f-11e2-bd68-001a4bcf6878.html; Map taken from A Scots-Irish Route From Pennsylvania online at <https://huntroots.com/tag/great-wagon-road/> ; 1751 Fry and Jefferson map sourced from Wikimedia <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d8/Kitfry-1-.jpg>



Although the route now followed by Hwy 220 would have been the most direct route for our ancestors to travel, it is hard to guess which way they really went. They would have been traveling wilderness paths through undeveloped, pristine land. Our ancestors would have been among the first settlers to travel down the path and possibly they would have had to cut trees and clear brush to make way for any pack animals and livestock.

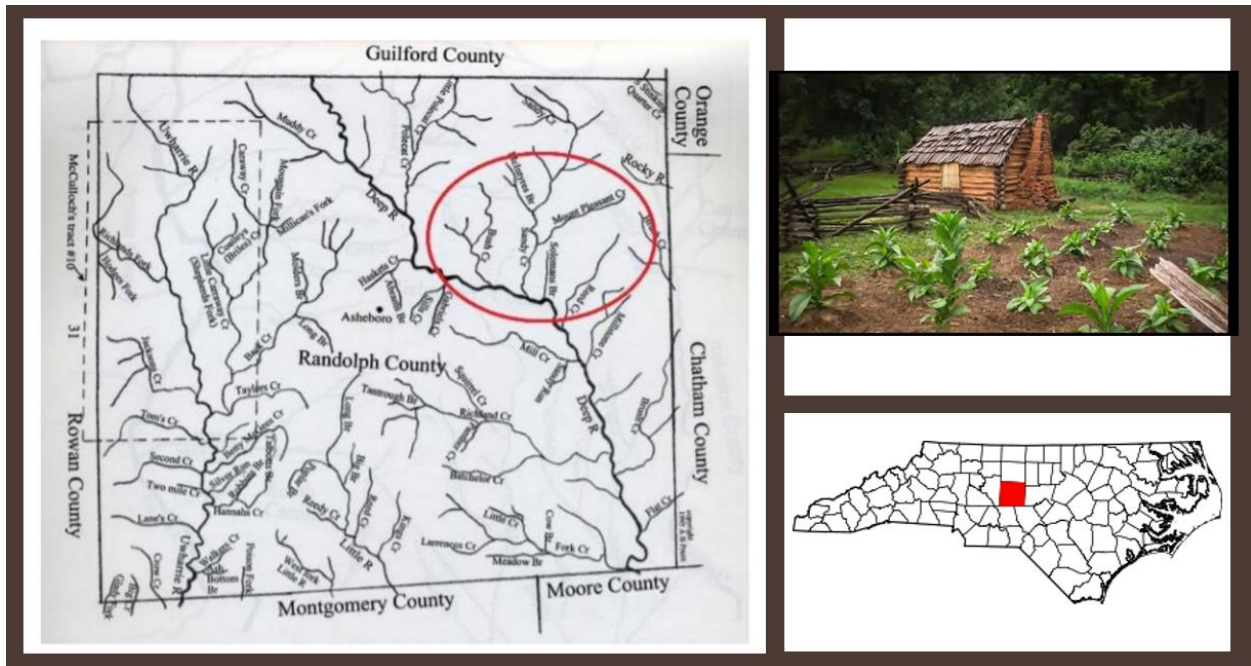
When I first started this research, it easy to guess the Allreds must have passed through Bethabara, Bethania and Salem on their way to their new home. However, the Moravian Single Brothers did not establish Bethabara until 1753,³⁴ several years after John, Thomas and Solomon Allred arrived in what is now Randolph County, North Carolina. Salem (known today as the historic district of Old Salem) was not built until 1766.³⁵ By then, our ancestors had been living in North Carolina by 20 years or so.

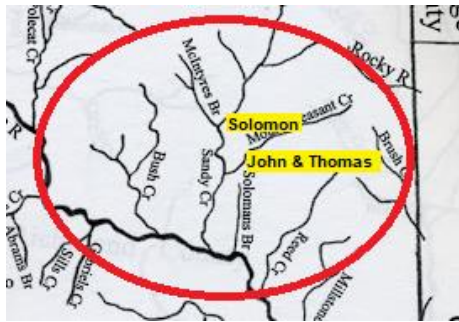
³⁴ <https://www.ncpedia.org/history/colonial/philadelphia-wagon-road> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethabara_Historic_District

³⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethabara_Historic_District



Regardless of the exact path our ancestors took from Roanoke, Virginia to what is now Randolph County, North Carolina, land records give us precise descriptions telling us where their land was located.



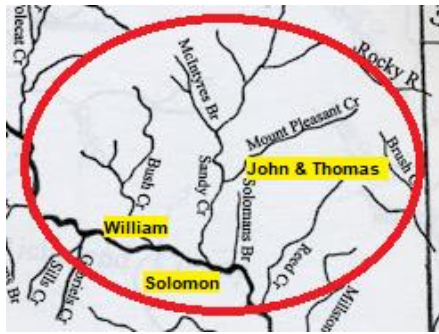
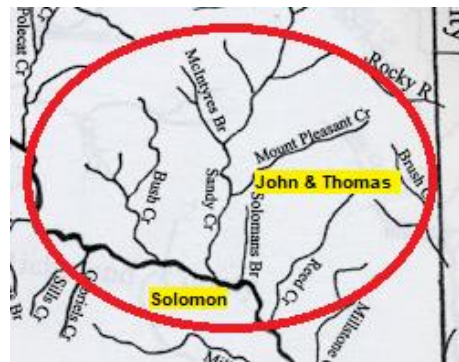


John, Thomas and Solomon were the first Allreds to arrive in North Carolina. This probably explains why their land is easily located along rivers and creeks; being among the first settlers to arrive, they would have had their pick of land near plenty of fresh water. John's grant describes his land being on the "mouth of Mt. Pleasant of Sandy Creek".³⁶ A 1755 land warrant for Herman Husband's land along Mt. Pleasant Creek states "includes

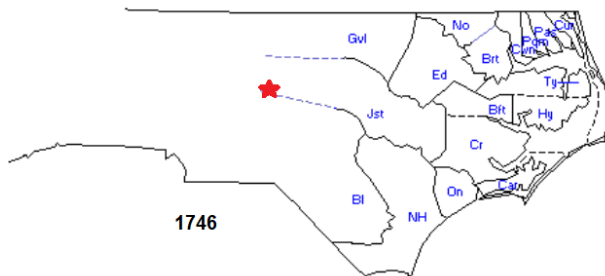
Solomon Allred's improvements".³⁷

This tells us Solomon originally lived near John and Thomas

before moving about 2 miles south to the Mouth of Sandy Creek on Deep River where his 1752 land grant places him.³⁸

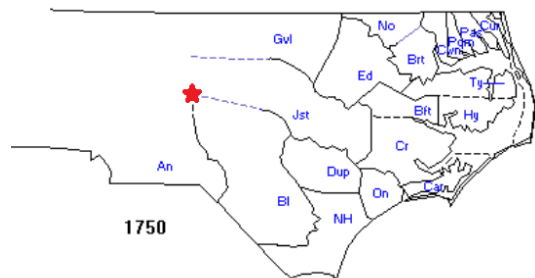


William arrived a few years later, after he sold his land in Maryland (1752). His 1762 grant gives the description "on the mouth of Bush Creek of Deep River".³⁹



county formations combined with different laws pertaining to filing Deeds/Grants. When the Allreds arrived, their land was truly unexplored wilderness. The red star on the 1746 map⁴⁰ shows where our ancestor's

If the Allreds arrived in North Carolina in the mid-late 1740's, why did it take so long for them to file for their land grants/deeds? The answer is rapid population growth and rapid



³⁶ Grant #33, Book 14, page 332, File #325, MARS 12.14.95.322 NC Archives

³⁷ Herman Husband March 15, 1755 warrant 640 acres, descriptive references Sandy Creek, Mount Pleasant Creek, Deep River, "includes Solomon Allred's improvements"; NC Archives SR.12.8.3.039

³⁸ Grant # 128 issued Aug 1, 1760, Book 14, page 327, NC Archives record ID 12.14.95.305

³⁹ Warrant issued 11 Dec 1762, Book #14, page 330, Grant #76, File #319, NC Archives MARS 12.14.95.316

⁴⁰ 1746 map of North Carolina counties online at <https://www.mapofus.org/northcarolina/>

land was located. As you can see, they were on land legally recognized as part of Bladen County. Note North Carolina's western border was not defined; North Carolina stretched west as far as anyone knew at that time. By 1750, the land was on the border of Bladen and Anson Counties. Our ancestors had just arrived and their first priority would have been to build a house, clear land for farming and set up a homestead. Figuring out which county they were living in and traveling to that county's courthouse was not on the top of their list of things that needed to be done right away.

Obtaining a grant of land from the government was the final step in a process that often resulted in the creation of several documents:

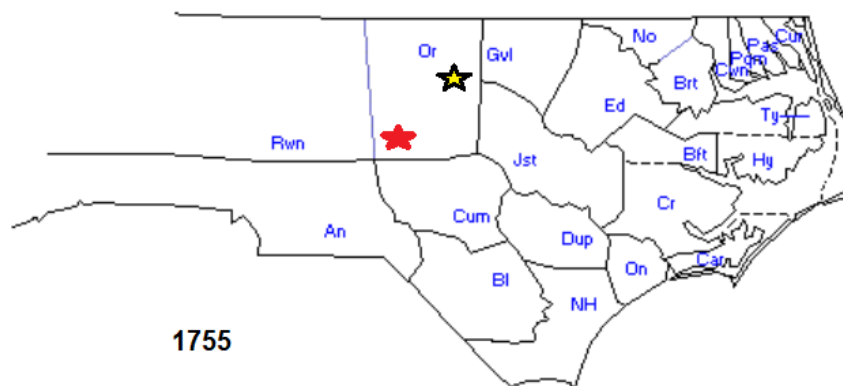
- Entries or applications
- Warrants
- Plats or surveys
- Grants or patents

Entries or applications. After a person selected a piece of vacant land, he would enter a claim or apply for it by describing its features to a government official or entry-taker. The entry-taker would record the description with the name of the person seeking the land, a description of the land, the number of acres, the name of adjacent land owners, and the date the entry was made.

Warrants. If, after three months, the person seeking the land received no opposition to his entry by way of legal caveat, the entry taker would convey a warrant to the assigned surveyor. This warrant was the authorization for the surveyor to complete a plat. Sometimes as many as 10 years could pass between entry and warrant.

Plats or surveys. After receiving the warrant, the surveyor would survey the land and draw a plat map. This map may vary from the land description given in the entry or warrant. The surveyor sent copies of the plat to the land office.

Grants or patents. After officials received the necessary papers and fees, the new land owner was given the grant document that was his patent to the land.⁴¹

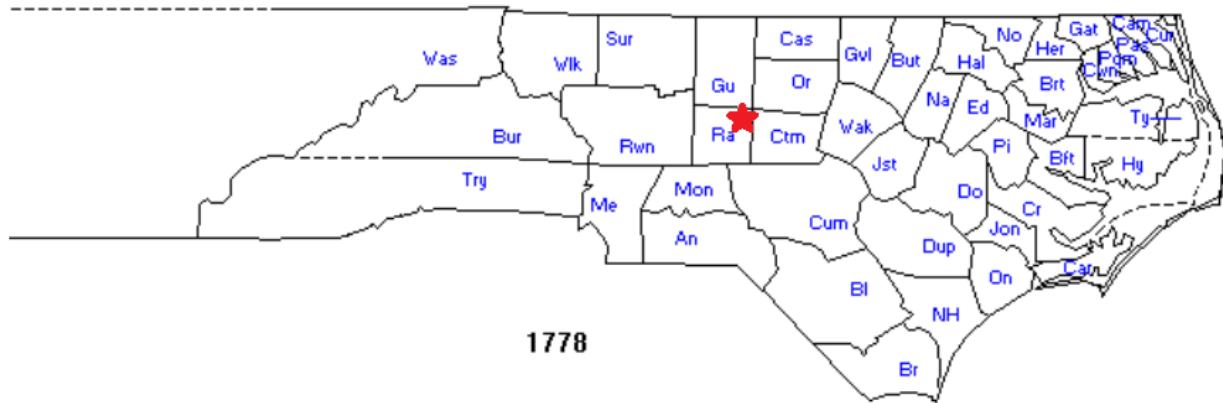


By 1755 when our ancestors received their land grants, the land they lived on was part of Orange County. The County Courthouse was located in Hillsborough (the yellow star on the map), about 50 miles

⁴¹ https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/North_Carolina_Land_and_Property

away. When you consider it would have taken 2-3 days to travel to Hillsborough, a day to file the necessary paperwork and, perhaps do other business while in town, then 2-3 days to travel back home – that is a long time to be gone from home, farm chores and family.

Randolph County was formed in 1778, making a trip to the courthouse in Asheboro much easier/quicker. The first session of court was held in Asheboro on June 12, 1793. The charter for the Town of Asheboro was issued by the State Legislature on Christmas Day in 1796.⁴²



Note:

- The American Revolution took place 1776 – 1783
- Solomon, son of Solomon born 1680, died 1782
- William, son of Solomon born 1680, died about 1771
- John, son of Samuel Finley, grandson of Solomon Allred born 1680 England, died 1792

Thomas was the only one to live long enough to see Asheboro’s first session of court. Our ancestors were truly among the VERY FIRST SETTLERS to live in central North Carolina.

Although some descendants began leaving central North Carolina in the 1780’s, many remained and some still live on or near the original Allred land.



Consider taking a trip up the Great Wagon Road, re-tracing the path our ancestors took. In June 2005, seven Allred researchers took that very trip, starting out in North Carolina and working our way back to Pennsylvania.⁴³ It taught us a lot about colonial travel and gave us a new appreciation for our ancestors’ experiences. From Randolph County, NC, take Hwy 220 North to Hwy 11 North to Hwy 33 North and you will be following, as close as possible, our ancestors’ footprints.

⁴² https://www.asheboronc.gov/discover_asheboro/about_asheboro/history.php

⁴³ Allred Family Organization Newsletter issue # 64, Fall 2005

When you take the trip, I highly recommend a visit to the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, Virginia⁴⁴. You can take a Tour (self or guided) of the large park and talk to interpreters who can answer questions about Colonial Pioneer life and travel down the Great Wagon Road. It is a large park, so plan to spend 4-5 hours and truly soak up the information and sights. Shuttles are available and/or you can rent a golf cart if walking around the whole park is an issue. Wander around their website where you will find information about the exhibits and videos that allow you to “virtually visit”.



Another recommended site is Natural Bridge, Virginia⁴⁵. Located on Hwy 11 just north of Roanoke, the 215 foot high natural span over a Cedar Creek. Although not proven, it is very possible our ancestors crossed this bridge while traveling The Great Wagon Road. Don't forget to look for George Washington's initials, carved into the stone in 1750 while he was surveying the area.

Information about Allred and Historic Sites in Randolph County, NC can be found in our Tour Guide online at www.MyAllredFamily.com and click on Research Reports, Videos & Tours, then click on Tour of Allred and Historic Sites in Randolph County.

⁴⁴ <https://www.frontiermuseum.org/>

⁴⁵ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_Bridge_\(Virginia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_Bridge_(Virginia)) and <http://www.virginiaplaces.org/geology/naturalbridge.html>