

Dear Mary,

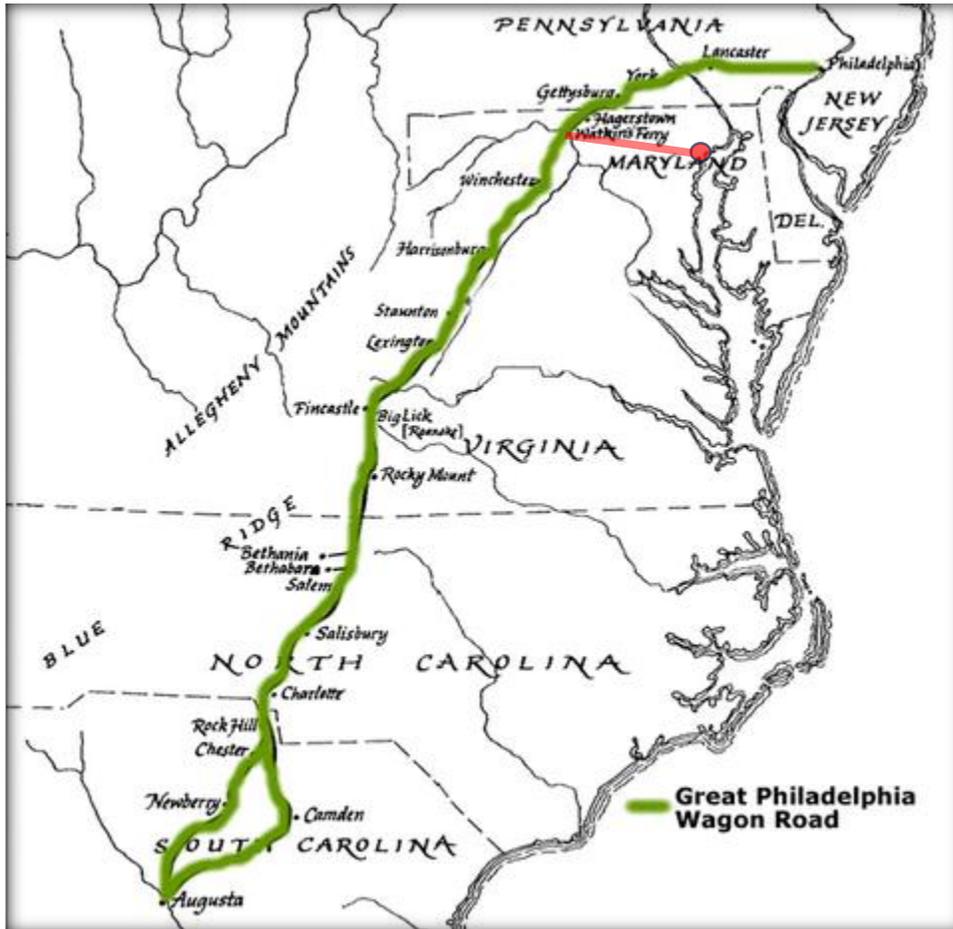
I am writing this note to provide you with a narrative respecting your direct relationship to Moses Ferguson, a confirmed veteran of the Revolutionary War. Moses Ferguson was your fifth Great Grandfather (eight generations past)

In explanation, Moses' father was Robert Ferguson. Robert is believed to have been born in Ayr, Scotland, about 1722. It is said that in 1724 Robert's father, also Robert, moved the family to County Tyrone, Ulster Province (Northern Ireland) as part of the great Scottish migration of the early-mid 18<sup>th</sup> century; the English Crown had earlier encouraged settlement by lowland Scots as a means of stabilizing and "Protestantizing" Ulster. Rising rents, trade restrictions and renewed religious discrimination led many Scots to emigrate again, this time to America, especially Pennsylvania and the southern colonies. Today we term these individuals "Scots-Irish". About 1750 the Ferguson family, consisting of the senior Robert, wife Mary and, at least two sons (Andrew and the younger Robert) migrated to America. At some point, the elder Robert acquired the moniker "Colonel Robert", which appears to be a title of demeanor and respect rather than an acknowledgement of military accomplishment. Accordingly, we will hereafter refer to the senior Robert (father of junior Robert) as "Colonel Robert Ferguson" in recognition of later references by various enthusiastic Ferguson genealogists. On October 5, 1757, Robert Ferguson married Elizabeth Wylley at Trinity Church in New York City. On April 5, 1759 their first child, James, was born in "Nottingham", an area of southeastern Pennsylvania located in modern day Chester County, Pennsylvania (the Nottingham townships).



In February, 1762, Moses Ferguson, your 5th great-grandfather and revolutionary war soldier, was born, in Baltimore, Maryland to Robert and Elizabeth (Wylley) Ferguson.

By the 1760's the Carolinas offered cheap or free land under new settlement incentives. Accordingly, many Scots-Irish families migrated southward into the Carolinas via the "Great Philadelphia Wagon Road", the acknowledged highway of Scots-Irish migration to the southern colonies and Appalachia.



From Baltimore, settlers would follow roads toward Frederick, Maryland, then head southwest to join the Great Wagon Road near Winchester, Virginia. The Fergusons joined the exodus, traveling the Great Wagon Road to first settle in Rowan County, North Carolina (near the town of Salisbury on the above map). They later moved to York County (Camden District), South Carolina, where the family purchased 250 acres of land on the waters of Beaver Dam and Allison Creek. By 1771 the Ferguson family had moved to Tryon County, North Carolina (later reorganized as Lincoln County (1779) and then the modern-day Gaston County (1846)), as Colonel Robert Ferguson registered land grant #141 on 13 April 1771 along Crowders Creek. This property became the "old homestead" of the "Crowders Creek Fergusons".

Young Robert and Elizabeth (Wylley) Ferguson appear as a separate family in Tryon County in 1777. Unconfirmed (by me) land records are reported to exist reflecting that Robert Ferguson bought 146 acres of land along the waters of Long Creek (13 March 1777) . Confirmed land

grant #47, registered 17 Jul 1778, presents Robert Ferguson's receipt of 70 acres on the waters of Long Creek adjoining his already owned property, as well as the properties of a Moses Ferguson (not known to be related) and John Hostetler. Thereafter Robert and Elizabeth's family will be referred to as the "Long Creek Fergusons".

We are interested in the "Long Creek Fergusons", as that is the immediate family of **our Revolutionary War veteran, Moses Ferguson**. The following excerpt from the Draper Manuscripts references events at the "Long Creek Ferguson's" homestead:

*"Robert Ferguson lived in the vicinity of Lincoln County Courthouse, North Carolina. There were six sons in the family, to-wit: James, Moses, John, Robert, Elias, and Alexander. The 'old' man and James, though but a youth, frequently went on the scout. They were home one evening when seven men, professing to be Whigs, rode up and asked for supper and horse feed, and they were accommodated as soon as possible. At supper they sat down. The leader of the men, he said his name was Brown, asked a blessing and returned thanks. After this was over the seven men were seen in secret counsel, the sequel of which was that they came back into the house, knocked the 'old man' down and beat him until they thought he was dead, seized the guns from the rack, and confined and tied up the oldest son, James. Moses made his escape. Robert was punched in the side with a gun, breaking two of his ribs. One of the men pushed one of the little boys into the fire. The 'old lady' pulled him out, for which another one of the party threw her with violence against the table after which she never spoke. Moses, who escaped alarmed the neighborhood, which collected at the distressing scene of the dead mother and the father scarcely alive, but did live but never able thereafter to do anything. All the property the family wanted was carried off by those wretches. The neighbors gave hot pursuit and the next morning overtook them in the Piney Woods of South Carolina. They were in a bad fix to be taken prisoners. This man Brown tried to fight but was shot down with four others. Two escaped, but nearly all the property was recovered."*

**Note by Brian Ferguson:** *Contrary to the narrative (above) presented within the Draper Manuscripts, Robber/Plundering Sam Brown was not killed as a result of the attack on the Ferguson homestead. Rather, Sam Brown was killed by a Mr. Culbertson as reported in "King's Mountain and its Heroes", Published by Peter G. Thompson, Cincinnati, OH, 1881. It should be noted that James Ferguson (eldest son of Robert, as mentioned in the Draper Manuscript narrative) presents (in his Revolutionary War Pension application of 1832) that he volunteered, about the first of April, 1777, to serve in a horse company, captained by John Bailey, to search for "Sam Brown the robber".*

BELOW IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF **MOSES FERGUSON'S** APPLICATION FOR REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION:

Moses Ferguson National DAR No. 202832, 519771

*Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements*

*Pension application of Moses Ferguson S17411 fn39SC[sic, NC]*

*Transcribed by Will Graves 1/13/09*

*[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original.]*

*State of Missouri Lafayette County*

*On this 6th day of November 1833 personally appeared before the Honorable John F. Ryland Judge of the Circuit Court of Lafayette County aforesaid Moses Ferguson a residing in this County of Lafayette aforesaid aged 71 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.*

*That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in February of the year 1781 and served in the first Regiment of the South Carolina State Troops under the following named officers: Lieut. Andrew Alexander Capt. William Alexander, Major James Rutherford, Col. Wade Hampton and General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter]. And left the service on the last of November 1781. And that he served for the period of 10 months. He marched from North Carolina Lincoln County into South Carolina and was at the taking of Fort Granby by Col. Wade Hampton and was at the taking of Fort Orangeburg by Col. Wade Hampton and fought under General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] at the battle of the Eutaw Springs, General Sumter having before that battle captured some British near Moncks Corner and got a box of gold from them as he understood and left the troops. General Henderson commanded in his place after he left them, these are all the engagements he now remembers being in. He was employed the chief of his time in reconnoitering the Country after the Tories and was not stationed any length of time at any one place Col. Washington was in the battle of the Eutaw Springs and was taken prisoner and conveyed by the British to Charleston and in answer to the interrogatories says:*

**1st** *Where and in what year were you born?*

*He was born in Baltimore State of Maryland in the month of February in the year 1762*

**2nd** *Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?*

*He has no record of his age now but recollects of seeing his age set down by his father in the family Bible which he believes was destroyed by the Tories who robbed his father's house and killed my mother.*

**3rd** *Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?*

*He was living in Lincoln County North Carolina when he entered the service and after the war he lived in Lincoln County North Carolina until the year 1820 and then removed to Tennessee Rhea County and lived there till the year 1831 and removed from thence to Lafayette County State of Missouri where he now lives*

**4th** *How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?*

*He enlisted under Col. Wade Hampton in the month of February 1781 and was enlisting man for the service at that time*

**5th** *State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.*

*Col. Washington and Col. Lee and General Greene were regular officers Col. Polk Col. William Hill Col. Middleton Col. Henry Hampton were State Troops officers. He does not recollect the name of the Continental or Militia regiments He has given the occurrences of the circumstances as he recollects them above except that Major Rutherford was killed at the Eutaw battle*

**6th** *Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?*

*He received a discharge from Col. William Poke [sic, Polk] and got it washed up in his clothes soon after he got home*

**7th** *State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.*

*He is known to John Alexander who can testify to his character. He has been living so shortly a period in the present neighborhood that he has not formed a sufficient acquaintance with any of his neighbors that he did not know before to enable them to testify to his character. Ryal Maury, Nicholas House [indecipherable name] live in his neighborhood. He is not known to any clergyman sufficiently to enable him to testify to his character. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. He states that he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services personally November 6th, 1833*

*Attest: S/ Young Ewing S/ Moses Ferguson, X his mark*

*Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court.*

*S/ Young Ewing, Clerk*

*[Willis H. Chapman and Frederick Fulkison gave the standard supporting affidavit adding that they knew the applicant in the State of Tennessee.]*

*State of Missouri County of Lafayette*

*On this 28th day of February in the year 1833 personally appeared before the Honorable Justices of the County Court of Lafayette County while in session Moses Ferguson a resident of Lafayette County in the State of Missouri aged 71 years who being first duly sworn according to law upon his oath says that he applied to the war Department for a pension under the provisions of the Act marched 18th 1818 which application was transmitted to the department in the fall of 1831 with the accompanying proof: in answer to which he received a communication from JL Edwards dated December 2nd, 1831. In his application and the documents accompanying them he set forth and proved that he had served under Col. Wade Hampton, Major James Rutherford and Capt. William Alexander of the state troops of South Carolina. He made proof of actual service by Robert McCormick and Adam Miller all of which will more fully appear in the documents on file in the department as shown by your answer to me. When he made his prove the same was taken before the Circuit Court of Rhea for the County court thereof in the oldest of 1831 [sessions] in the State of Tennessee. He hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension whatever or annuity except the benefit of the provision of the act of 7th June 1832 under which he now hereby claims and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State or the agency of any State.*

*Attest: S/ A. W. Douiphan*

*S/ Moses Ferguson, X his mark*

*Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.*

*S/ The Young Ewing, Clerk*

Robert Ferguson died at his homestead alongside Long Creek in 1815. He was buried in the Old Long Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery. "FindAGrave.com" presents a 2014 picture of his grave marker under Memorial ID #134185642. When I visited the cemetery in March, 2020, I could not find the marker pictured at FindAGrave.com, although Moses' granddaughter's reportedly adjacent headstone (Sophia Ferguson – 1807-1809, FindAGrave.com memorial ID # 16415410) was visible and intact. Robert's Last Will and Testament (written in 1805) specifically mentions his six sons by his first wife (Elizabeth Wylley), passing his "lands in Tennessee State" equally to five of them (James, Moses, John, Robert and Alexander). It is likely that the sixth son, Elias (who received \$50 in the Will) had already received his portion of land, as Elias is listed as an early landholder (1808 tax records and deeds) at the formation of Rhea County from Roane County (Roane County was incorporated in 1801). All six sons and their families had migrated to Rhea County, Tennessee by 1829. Second son Moses, our veteran (again, your 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather), moved with most of his family, from Lincoln County, NC to Rhea County, TN in 1820, living along Clear Creek. It is generally accepted by genealogists that Moses and his wife, Elizabeth Cox, had 14 children (although I have been able to directly account for 12). This determination is, most likely, drawn from counts in the 1810 Federal Census as well as a statement from the book "Portrait and Biographical Record of Johnson and Pettis Counties, Missouri (Chapman - 1895)" - on page 595 it states "Samuel Ferguson...was born in Lincoln County, N.C., in 1791, being the eldest of fourteen children, whose parents were Moses and Elizabeth (Cox) Ferguson. All of the brothers and sisters lived to maturity and all married and reared families with the exception of one daughter, who remained single".

We do not know exactly why Moses moved from Tennessee to the new state of Missouri. We do know that there had been unabashed corruption respecting land grants/sales in Tennessee, particularly in the case of Stockley Donelson, an associate of Andrew Jackson. The area around modern-day Spring, Tennessee, where the Ferguson properties were located, was in a heavily contested 19,000 acre tract sold multiple times by Stockley Donelson and his widow. At one point, Moses was arrested and actually involved in a lawsuit that rose to the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee. Deeds of sale were registered, commonly changing hands to enforce claims of questionable merit. It is likely that legal machinations surrounding the various property disputes, along with the deaths of principals, triggered Moses and most of his adult children to migrate from Tennessee to Missouri.

In 1831, Moses (our veteran) migrated from Rhea County, Tennessee, to Lafayette County, Missouri, in company with the family of his oldest son, Samuel, where he purchased 80 acres of land on 02 Feb 1832 from Morgan Cockrell. Moses submitted his application for the earlier

described Revolutionary War pension (1833) while living in Lafayette County, Missouri. In December, 1834, Johnson County, Missouri was formed from Lafayette County. Moses Ferguson passed away on 15 March, 1845 and is buried in the Blackwater Cemetery, Johnson County, Missouri. His grave is marked with a Revolutionary War headstone, approved/shipped by the War Department on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1931. Moses' FindAGrave.com Memorial ID # is 29092344. His DAR certificate (Patriot # A039293) is provided:

*A Patriot's Legacy*  
*As proven in DAR records*

Patriot Name: Moses Ferguson Patriot # <sup>A039293</sup>

Service: Private, Service Description: 1) CAPT ALEXANDER, COL WADE HAMPTON

Residence: NC

Born: 2-1762 / Baltimore Baltimore CO, MD

Died: post 3-15-1845 / Jackson twp-Bur Johnson CO., Missouri

Service Source: Pension File \*S17411

Grave of Patriot Marked

Spouse #1: Elizabeth Cox

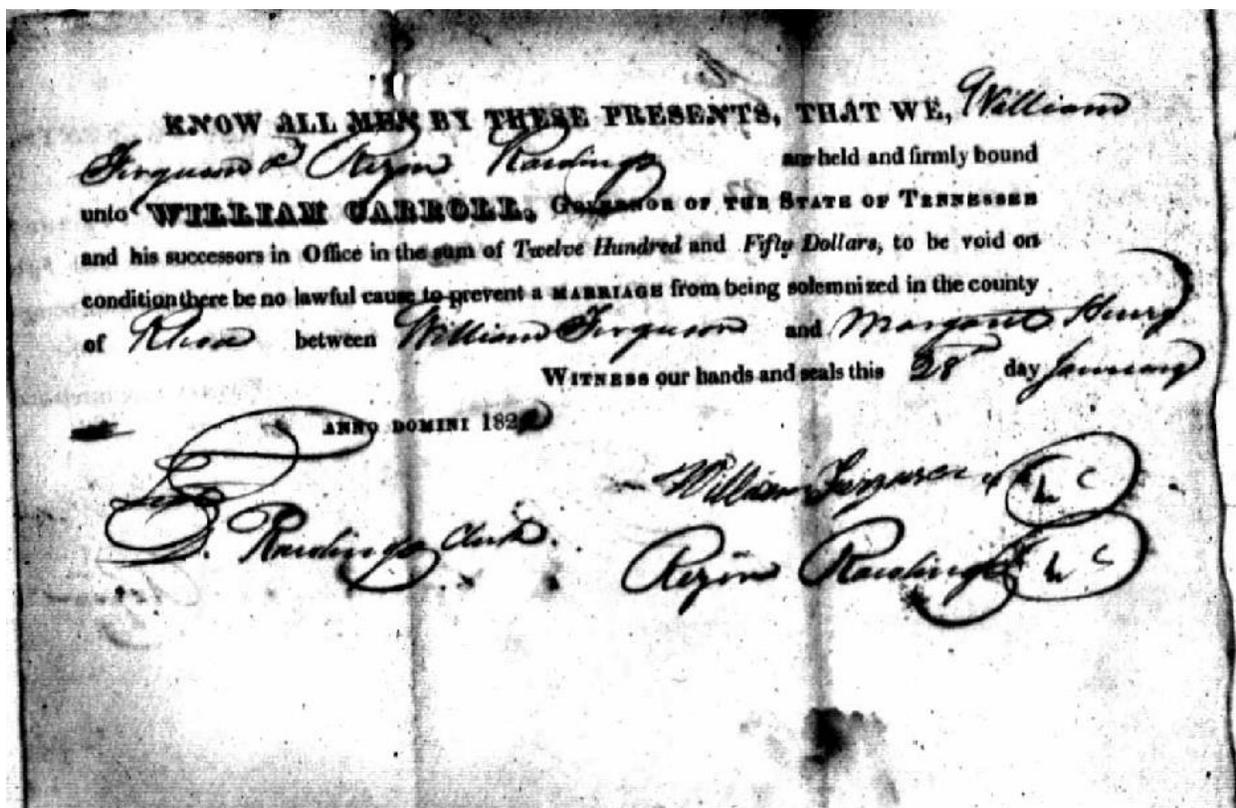
Spouse #2:

Spouse #3:

Proven Children:

Linares NSDAR Chapter

Moses son, William (1796 – abt 1870, your 4th great-grandfather, who went by the name “Billie”) married Margaret Henry (daughter of John Henry) in 1822 in Rhea County, Tennessee. Here is a copy of the marriage bond, dated 28 January 1822 (according to Rhea County marriage records, the marriage was solemnized on 31 January 1822):



In 1825 William and Margaret were living on ninety-eight acres on Wolf Creek (Rhea County). In 1826 William and Margaret sold their inheritance of the John Henry estate to Margaret's brother-in-law (John Day – husband of Margaret's sister, Sarah). This sale didn't include the Wolf Creek property. Meanwhile, William and Margaret Ferguson's family was growing. Their second son, Gideon Blackburn Ferguson (your 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather) was born in 1828. The last entry that I can find in Rhea County for William is 1832, where he served as Bondsman for Mathias Green. By 1840 the William Ferguson family had moved to Bradley County, Tennessee, as noted in the 1840 Federal Census. Available land records/deeds show that William purchased land in Bradley County, Tennessee, in 1841 and 1842 (totaling 280 acres).

The 1850 Federal Census for Bradley County, TN shows William Ferguson age 53, Farmer, born in North Carolina, with wife, Margaret, 47 born in Tennessee, with children Gidion [sic] 22, Plasterer; daughters Joanah age 20 and Mary 19; and sons Sam'l 14 and William 12. All of the children are shown as born in Tennessee. William and Margaret's eldest son, Francis Marion Ferguson, was also counted in Bradley County with his wife and one year old daughter.

We can find no record of Margaret after the 1850 census. During the 1850's, William, along with the families of his children, migrated to Johnson County, Missouri. The federal census of 1860 for Johnson County, Missouri lists William's occupation as Brick Mason; by 1870 he has returned to Johnson County, Missouri (following Civil War exile to Kansas) as a "Retired Stone Mason".

Of particular interest to us is William's second son, Gideon Blackburn Ferguson (1828-1877), your 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather. According to family records, Gideon married Frances "Fanny" Marian

Hankins of McMinn County, Tennessee (1852). The pair struck out for Missouri to join relatives (e.g. Uncle Samuel and his family) who had earlier pioneered settlement in Lafayette/Johnson County, Missouri. Arriving in Missouri, Gideon and “Fanny” welcomed their first son, John on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, 1853. Gideon and Fanny’s third child and second son, Albert Commadore Ferguson (1857-1949), your great-great grandfather, was born in Holden (Johnson County), Missouri on 19 October 1857.

The American Civil War was a time of turmoil for the Ferguson clan, as families were splintered by the rival governments/factions in the border state. Family memoirs present Fanny as a strong supporter of the southern cause; Gideon seemed less so. According to family lore, a sympathetic attitude toward slave owners resulted in “the good people of Holden burning the Ferguson home and escorting them to the Kansas state line”, suggesting that the family keep moving along. I don’t know how much of that narrative is fiction, but we do know that the Gideon Ferguson family settled in Greeley, Anderson County, Kansas, amongst relations that included, for a time, Gideon’s father, William. All are found in the Kansas State Census of 1865, with Gideon’s occupation listed as “Plasterer”.

The Gideon Ferguson family remained in Greeley for a few years following Gideon’s death in 1877. Albert had learned the trade from his father and in the years following Gideon’s death, operated a plastering business alongside his older brother, John (many advertisements for “J. H. Ferguson & Brother” “plasterers, builders and kalsominers” can be found in the Greeley News or Greeley Tribune during the early 1880’s). As a young man in rural Kansas, Albert found new business opportunities rather scarce. Having heard of new construction occurring near the burgeoning Indiana gas fields (probably from his “Indiana-native” brother-in-law, Paul Lamb, the husband of sister Nancy) Albert moved to Gas City, Indiana, then Wells County, Indiana (home of sister, Nancy), where he met and then married Nellie Dailey on 05 October 1887. During the next 13 years, Albert and Nellie had five children. Albert had a medical condition, known at the time as “wild eyelashes”. Today, this condition is known as Trichiasis, where eyelashes grow inward, toward the eye instead of outward. Repeated scarring of the cornea (along with irritation due to the lime in plasters) required Albert to turn to farming, with which he had no experience. By 1905, Albert had effectively been blinded by his eye condition. Eventually, Nellie had to take over administrative tasks that required normal eyesight (Albert had to leave farming due to his disability and served as sexton of the Oaklawn Cemetery in Ossian, Indiana for many years).

Your great-grandfather, Dale James Ferguson was born to Albert and Nellie on 23 December 1891 in Ossian, Wells County, Indiana. He was the second child of five. Dale went to Winona College for teacher’s training. He taught school and continued his education at Indiana University and Central Normal in order to receive his bachelor’s degree. On October 31, 1917 he married Georgiana Hostetter. As did many patriotic young men, Dale joined the Army on May 1, 1918. “Georgie” followed Dale to three stateside duty stations, working as a press operator to make ends meet (Georgiana’s father was a newspaper publisher). Following his discharge, Dale

returned to teaching. He taught and served as a principal or superintendent of schools for 17 years. Unfortunately, Dale developed glaucoma, which devastated his eyesight (does this sound familiar) by 1936 (during the Great Depression). Dale resided at the Veteran's hospital in Illinois (for two years) while Georgie worked at a department store in Fort Wayne, Indiana in order to earn money and maintain the home with the children in Indiana. Returning from Illinois, Dale sold cars and worked as a security guard while Georgie continued to work at the department store (Wolf & Dessaur in Fort Wayne, Indiana). My memories of "Grandpa Fergie" are many. He was an obsessed baseball fan and die-hard Democrat. He ate cashews (and NONE of his grandchildren were allowed to touch the cashew can). He was a fine carpenter/wood worker (Grandpa had a fine workbench in the garage, along with a band saw and belt sander; he "saved" my first woodworking assignment due in Mr. Pesavento's Drafting class at Carmel Junior High - a flower box built for my mother that hangs on the wall of our New York home today). After retirement he and Grandma ran a little antique store "by appointment only" – the "store" was housed in a small sunroom attached to their garage. Dale had "pop-bottle" spectacles and used to avidly work the daily crossword puzzle in the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, holding a huge magnifying glass to help his sight. Of course, Grandpa couldn't drive a car, so "Grandma Fergie" was the chauffer anytime they would stop by our house in Brierwood Hills. Grandpa was the first person I ever met who put salt on watermelon – it is sometimes funny what you remember. Grandma Fergie was "the best" - she would play tiddlywinks, my favorite game at her house, whenever she had the time (of course, I always won) or play 78 RPM records detailing the escapades of "Henry Hawk" or "Foghorn Leghorn" on the Victrola when begged to do so. I used to sit on the steel glider on Grandma and Grandpa's front porch, watching and counting the cars as they raced by on South Clinton Street. During the Christmas season, Santa Claus would fly, by helicopter, to the Sears parking lot down the street on East Rudisill Blvd; I couldn't really figure out exactly who that fake Santa was, for the "real" Santa Claus held court at my father's department store, Wolf & Dessaur, in downtown Fort Wayne, from whence the local TV station, "WKJG – channel 33" broadcast live Santa telecasts during the Christmas season (I personally knew the REAL Santa from TV and got to sit on his lap every year). Grandma and Grandpa Fergie's home on South Clinton Street was bulldozed in 1970 to make way for the three-year expansion of Southside High School. As a side note, Grandma Fergie moved to Pompano Beach, Florida (to be close to her daughter, Clair Elaine (Ferguson) Waldschmidt – my "Aunt Elaine") following Grandpa's death in 1973. I last visited "Grandma Fergie" in Pompano Beach when my Navy ship (USS John L. Hall) conducted a port visit to Fort Lauderdale, FL in 1987.

Anyway, back to the narrative. On 04 April 1921, your grandfather, Dale Eugene Ferguson, was born in Ossian, Wells County, Indiana. To his mother and father, he was known as "Eugene". To his friends he was "Red" due to his red hair. Your grandfather was a remarkable man, larger than life and a towering presence – a phenomenal athlete, WWII bomber pilot and nationally recognized businessman, he commanded respect simply by walking into the room. He married

his high school sweetheart, Jeanne Elizabeth Gumper on Christmas Eve, 1943, taking a two-day leave from his duties at Alva Army Air Corps Base in Alva, Oklahoma. Years later, their fourth child, your father (me) was born in 1957. You, pretty much, know the rest of the genealogy story.

You are the third child and eldest daughter born to Brian Ferguson and Mary Ryan. You are a direct descendant of Moses Ferguson, Revolutionary War soldier who served in Alexander's Company of Colonel Wade Hampton's mounted militia (light dragoons) of the South Carolina State Troops under the command of the Southern Department of the Continental Army. The unit also served, for a time, under the command of Thomas Sumter. His term of service was from February through November, 1781, during which time he was present at the taking of Fort Granby, the taking of Fort Orangeburg and the Battle of Eutaw Springs.