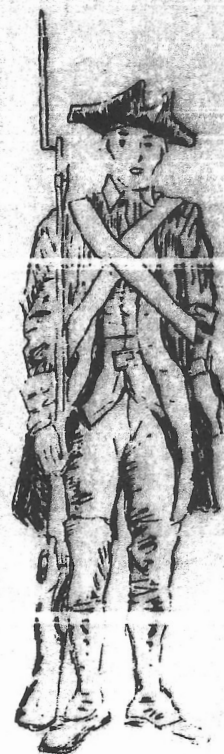


# These Irishmen called HANSON 1750-1976

An accounting of the descendants of  
JOHN HANSON of  
Colonial Greenbrier Virginia

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## “On the North Fork of the Solomon”

There is a time in the life of every young lad when he asks of himself and others “who am I?” and “from what stock and ancestry did I spring?”. One suspects that with most young persons this query is soon forgotten and the question lapses into only a fading memory.

For me this has not been the case. Nearly, forty-two years ago I had occasion to call to the attention of “Gram” who was my paternal grandmother, the problem of who my forebears were. Then came a tale related by Grandmother Lenory Myars Hanson in which she told me scanty details of her birth in the Indiana Territory and a brief record of her man’s serving in the Civil War and then that she lived in the Kansas Territory for a short period of time before following her husband Morgan Hanson to the small town of Glorieta in the area then called the New Mexican Territory. Glorieta is a tiny hamlet located about twenty miles from today’s Santa Fe. She enlivened the story for the small boy who sat entranced at her words by describing in only minor detail the fact that the family had lived on the North Fork of the Solomon River in Kansas and that she had crossed the prairies, coming to the west, in a covered wagon with her family. She further stated unequivocally that a town in Kansas had been named for her, but that the spelling of the name was not correct; in this she was making reference to Lenora, Kansas which does, indeed, sit on the North Fork of the River.

The naive idea that the Hanson history would be completed in a short time was soon dispelled as facts accumulated and traditions became more and more available from a large variety of sources and correspondents over the entire nation. As with many of the amateur and uninitiated workers on family stories the writer failed to document many of his early sources, and hundreds of documents and individuals were consulted in the process of getting this document together. The work represented herein is a collection of verified data and of a compendium of traditions and other data not necessarily tied in with the actual historical records of the Hansons. In assembling this information I have crossed the country several times and in the process have delved into records in a variety of obscure places such as tiny Courthouses and towns, graveyards, backwoods areas, maps, reference libraries and the publications of other persons interested in the Hanson clan’s background. For the factual information included in the pages to follow I am indebted to many wonderful individuals who took of their time to write and or talk with me about this work.

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I wish to further express my sincere appreciation for the many wonderful persons who took of their time to discuss local facts and information about the family with me, from the Muddy Creek Hansons to those in California, Illinois, Oregon and in a myriad of States across the nation including the Blue Ridge Mountains. I must not forget to tell of the several in one State who deliberately attempted to mislead me to hide certain of the ghosts in their "closets", in this manner accomplishing little - I have your information. Particular appreciation must be given to a number of persons who have provided without exception of their work and of their publications. These include one Raymond C. Hanson, of Kinsley, Kansas and now deceased who typed out a record based upon his research of seven years duration and who provided incentive and basic outlines for the work of a Homer Eiler of Kansas who spent lavishly of his time and money to publish an early Hanson family history and those of several allied families. Beyond these persons there are others: Mrs. Audry Woodruff of Kansas City, Wayne Hanson of Indianapolis, Mrs. Beryl Stillions of Bloomington, Indiana, Mrs. Jackie Watson of Corinne, Utah and dozens of others.

There is much in this work that will be termed tradition and it has been included to add interest and local color to the material which otherwise may have become dull in specific areas. Little has been withheld, even when the facts are somehow not part of the tale of an angelic Hanson family. The Hansons have been outstanding in many areas and this we recognize, but on the other hand they are and have been human beings and have erred in a number of instances, yet when you consider the hundreds of individuals treated in these pages you must make provision for human frailties.

One is quick to note that the family has been outstanding in its continuing travels along the frontiers as they developed in America. The Hansons had their successes, made some mistakes, engaged in many unusual ventures, explored the nation in its early days, fought in its wars, and blazed an enviable way across the nation.

Perchance the reader will enjoy this tale of the clan and some of its more intimate relatives and their traits. He may see a bit of himself in the many individuals mentioned including their antics, their everyday lives, their loves, their tragedies, and their personalities including such traits as their being footloose, headstrong, stubborn, and outspoken. And, lest you find that we aren't always to your liking I've tried to include all our family characteristics in some detail at least. For example there is in our hereditary makeup some artistic talent, musical abilities, an innate sympathy for others and coupled with an unusual inability to verbalize that that feeling for others. You'll find, also, a loyalty between and within individual families that is quite hard for outsiders to recognize. The Hansons find it difficult to come by tears, though they may have intense internal emotions. This is a matter that I have discussed at length with many of the persons in the family that have taken time to share their feelings with me.

I've had fun working on this—our tale of the family. If you are pleased it will have been well worthwhile. The material prior to 1728 has been virtually impossible to search further. In the appendix I have included some tradition and fact that may someday be of value to a later family researcher. To those who aided in any measure in assembling the Hanson family history I say "thank you" for making this account possible.





## “Irish or English – and they settled on the Greenbrier..

John Hanson, the first of the Hansons from whom we are descended, and the first of the Hanson family to set foot on the shores of the American Colonies, arrived according to tradition at the Port of Baltimore, Maryland in the vanguard of hundreds of other Irish immigrants and adventurers sometime between the years 1728 and 1758. As many others of the newcomers to the Colonies, he was probably seeking relief from religious, political, financial and military persecution in the old country. Evidently he was a Protestant as is attested to by the names he and his wife gave to their seven sons and by the recurrence of the name “John Wesley Hanson” which is noted in the next three generations after their arrival. The names of only five of the seven sons are known to this writer and two others are not proved at this time.

The earliest recorded information concerning our ancestor John 1 was that he was a soldier in the English army, was born in Ireland, and “educated” in England. This fragmentary account is the result of a statement made by his grandson James Hanson to his (James) sons and their assembled families in the year 1876. To James Hanson, then, goes the credit for initiating the history of the Hanson family which has since spread widely over the expanses of America and which has served this nation so well.

The record of James Hanson, as preserved by his son in turn, Martin Hanson, reads as follows:

“My father’s father, who was my great grandfather, was born in Ireland. His wife was an Irish woman. They raised seven sons that went into the Revolutionary War. My grandfather John Hanson was sixteen years old when he volunteered and served three years under General George Washington. He was the youngest of seven sons. I believe they were all born in Greenbrier County, Virginia. I do not know all their names but will tell you some of them. There were William, James, Samuel and John who was my grandfather. I don’t know the other’s names, but they fought for Liberty with an Irish zeal and helped establish this government which we now celebrate this Centennial Year.”

Years later, in 1892, another descendant of the Hansons wrote a note in his boyhood diary as dictated by his school-teacher father Samuel Hanson of Indianapolis, Indiana. This diary read:

"The first of the family of whom there is any record was born in the 18th century in England. . . . He was in some sort of war in which he fought as a Redcoat. . . . he was to shoot some spies so he deserted and he came to America where he married an Irish 'Lady', residing about this time in Virginia."

Many years later Wayne Hanson who was the small boy noted added for the record, in his correspondence with the writer that "I wrote exactly what my father told me. Undoubtedly, he got it straight from his father John Wesley Hanson, the son of Conrad Hanson and the grandson of John Hanson 2 of John Hanson 1. He (Wayne's father Sam) said John 1 came to America about 1758 . . . . Either is probably right in his conjectures, "An Englishman with an Irish bride or both Irish". John Hanson, Sr. died somewhere in Kentucky".

Members of the Hanson family, and others, who have researched the record have come to a consensus that the story of the Hansons tends to indicate an Irish ancestry while not being able to precisely locate the birthplace of either John 1 or of his wife, their origins, their ancestors, or their predecessors. Contemporaries of the family do provide tantalizing bits of information and tradition that are of interest. It seems that they may have, indeed, come from Ulster which is northern Ireland and that they were Protestant. A number of later arrivals in this country who were undoubtedly related and a large number of their Greenbrier neighbors did come from Londonderry and its immediate area in Ireland. Most settled on the Greenbrier and within a very few miles radius of the John Hansons.

John's Irish bride draws immediate speculation. Reference to her as an Irish "Lady" may indicate that he may have been a man of means and that he may have been an educated pioneer. Colonial mores and custom of those days were rigid and class distinctions would have mandated that a man of education and means marry a person of his same social standing--in effect--an Irish or English lady. If this were the case, the statement that John was born in England, or Ireland, and his educational status would be a truism. Then arises the question of why were some of the elder sons of John 1 educated and those who followed left illiterate? The known first son of John who was William Hanson, served for some time as one of Washington's surveyors on parties sent out by the Colonel into the vast hinterlands west of the main Blue Ridge Mountains in an area then known as the "Greenbrier County" which was beyond the frontier demarcation line of those times.

Thomas Hanson, suspected to be another of the seven sons, was a chainman and a recorder for other parties, one of which traveled the Ohio River. He was the principal author of the document called, "Journal kept on the River Ohio in 1774.

One of the strange coincidences is the fact that many of the pathways traversed by the Hansons in the years after the family left North Carolina seemed to parallel the route described by this Thomas Hanson years before. Thomas's route was described in detail in his journals and will be further discussed in another segment of this book. Nonetheless, Thomas was apparently an educated man.

Samuel Hanson, another known son of John Hanson 1, was a cadet in the Revolutionary army while serving in the same unit with him were William Hanson, who is thought to have definitely been the eldest son of John 1 and the youngest son, John 2, with Samuel and William signing their pay vouchers and young John 2 merely placing an X for his sign. John 1, if an educated man, would have been consorting with the families of the wealthy and educated planters of Virginia and thus it is felt that the sons of John 1 were probably taught while in the more civilized areas of Virginia or Ulster, then as the younger members moved with them out into the frontiers of the Colonial States, they missed out on the learning. On the other hand one has to consider the problems of semantics; the terms "Irish Lady" and "Irish Woman" may have been interchangeable.

## "My relative in Maryland"

Tradition persists that our John 1 referred often to "my relative in Maryland". In the 1700's lying directly across the Potomac River was a plantation bearing the name "Mulberry Grove" owned by another John Hanson, a noted political leader in early Maryland. Dealings between the two men are mentioned in some pages of the diary of George Washington and in other Maryland records of the time. While the two families were congenial and social friends and equals, it becomes obvious that in some instances Washington did not always best his neighbor in their business affairs.

Since it is situated on the Potomac shores, it seems quite unseemly that our John Hanson 1 would not have taken to visiting the other John Hanson or that he would have referred to him had they not been related. And, when one takes a moment to consider the inter relationships between Colonel Washington and his surveying parties including William Hanson and Thomas Hanson, isn't one making a logical assumption to include all of them along with our John Hanson 1 and John Hanson 2 and even John Hanson of Mulberry Grove?

When the two Irish Hanson newlyweds disembarked at Baltimore that town was hardly more than a cluster of small houses, a few shops and one church if our research is correct. This was in 1730. John 1 and his bride probably tarried there only briefly while outfitting themselves and any members of the family relationship who may have been with them on their inland trek up the Potomac River and into the interior. Customarily their journey would have taken them toward Fort Cumberland and according to Homer Eiler may have found them for a time in the southern portion of Pennsylvania. Tradition among many of the eastern English or Irish Hansons says that they are "Partly Dutch" and near Pittsburg there is a tiny town of Wall which the writer has visited and in which area there were no Hansons in the year 1960; nor were there any persons who could shed light on the clan in that area in the 1700's.

From Cumberland they turned into the southwestern pathway into the Valley of the Shenandoah River of Virginia where they definitely passed through the town of Front Royal and where some of today's Hensons say they were in the towns of Riverton and Winchester at the time of the Revolution or before. It has been proved that the eldest son of our John Hanson 1 who was William Hanson married a Civilla Tuckwyller. Civilla was the daughter of John Tuckwyller or the Front Royal region. After their marriage the young couple left to live with their parents John Hanson 1 and his wife on the Greenbrier River. There is a record in the family of their having later left Greenbrier to revisit her parents. In today's Greenbrier County, West Virginia there are several Tuckwyller families who trace their ancestry to the Revolutionary War period and who may very well have come from Front Royal. The John Hanson 1 family, however, is known to have made their principal place of residence "On the Greenbrier".

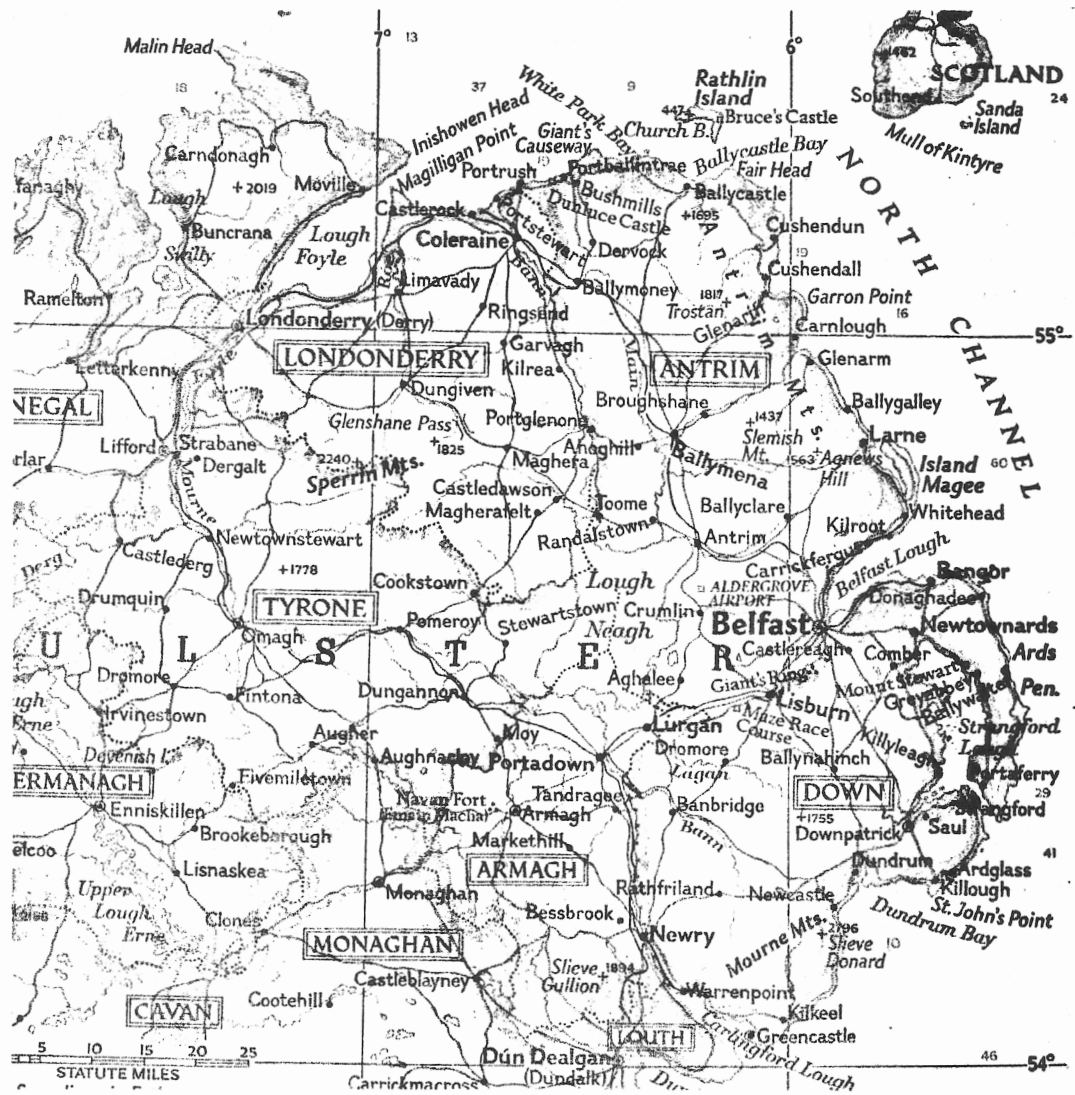
The land held by the early Hansons were purchased, in all likelihood, from one of two sources. The Greenbrier Land Company and the Ohio Land Company were both extremely active in recruiting English and Irish settlers in their land speculations of the period. For example Colonel John Newton in the early 1700's is said to have made no less than twenty-five trips to and from his home in Newtown, Ireland to secure new immigrants and land purchasers. That town is near Londonderry in Ireland and is also in the nearby region to Antrim County, Ireland. This fact, coupled with the arrival of one David Hanson from Antrim County with his Irish bride in 1798 leads the writer to feel that John Hanson 1 came from Londonderry. David originally came from Derry, too. David and his wife, who is said by the Hansonville, Virginia clan to have come from the "Landed Gentry" in the old country settled quite near John 1 in the Greenbrier area and later moved into the southern portion of what was then Washington County near North Carolina and Tennessee.

**NOVA BRITANNIA.**  
**OFFERING MOST**  
 Excellent fruites by Planting in  
**VIRGINIA.**  
 Exciting all such as be well affected  
 to further the same.



LONDON  
 Printed for SAMUEL MACHAM, and are to be sold at  
 his Shop in Pauls Church-yard, at the  
 Signe of the Bul-head.  
 1609.

A pamphlet advertising Virginia to prospective settlers appeared in London in 1609.



The wife of David Hanson was Sydney Major or Mager. Londonderry and Antrim Counties are also adjacent to each other in Ulster. In visiting briefly with the Hanson families now in Hansonville, Virginia some interesting tradition was recited to the writer in which it was noted that the early David Hansons and the Pattons were closely related by marriage in the late 1700's and that a town called Pattonville was in the immediate area. When the record of the Hansons is observed in other locales it is found

that in several cases the Patton family was a contemporary one. In the study of Muddy Creek, West Virginia it is found that "Other pioneers were Thomas Hanson Patton in 1771 and Samuel McKinney in 1772 who located on Muddy Creek near the Clendennin's place where that family had been murdered nine years before near Keeney's Knob". Muddy Creek and the Muddy Creek Mountain area are geographical regions of importance to the story of our family. On today's Muddy Creek Mountain there are Hanson families living who are without question on the original holdings of old John Hanson and his brothers and perhaps even of his father whose name is not known. The Muddy Creek Mountain Hansons were descendants of William, son of our emigrant ancestor.

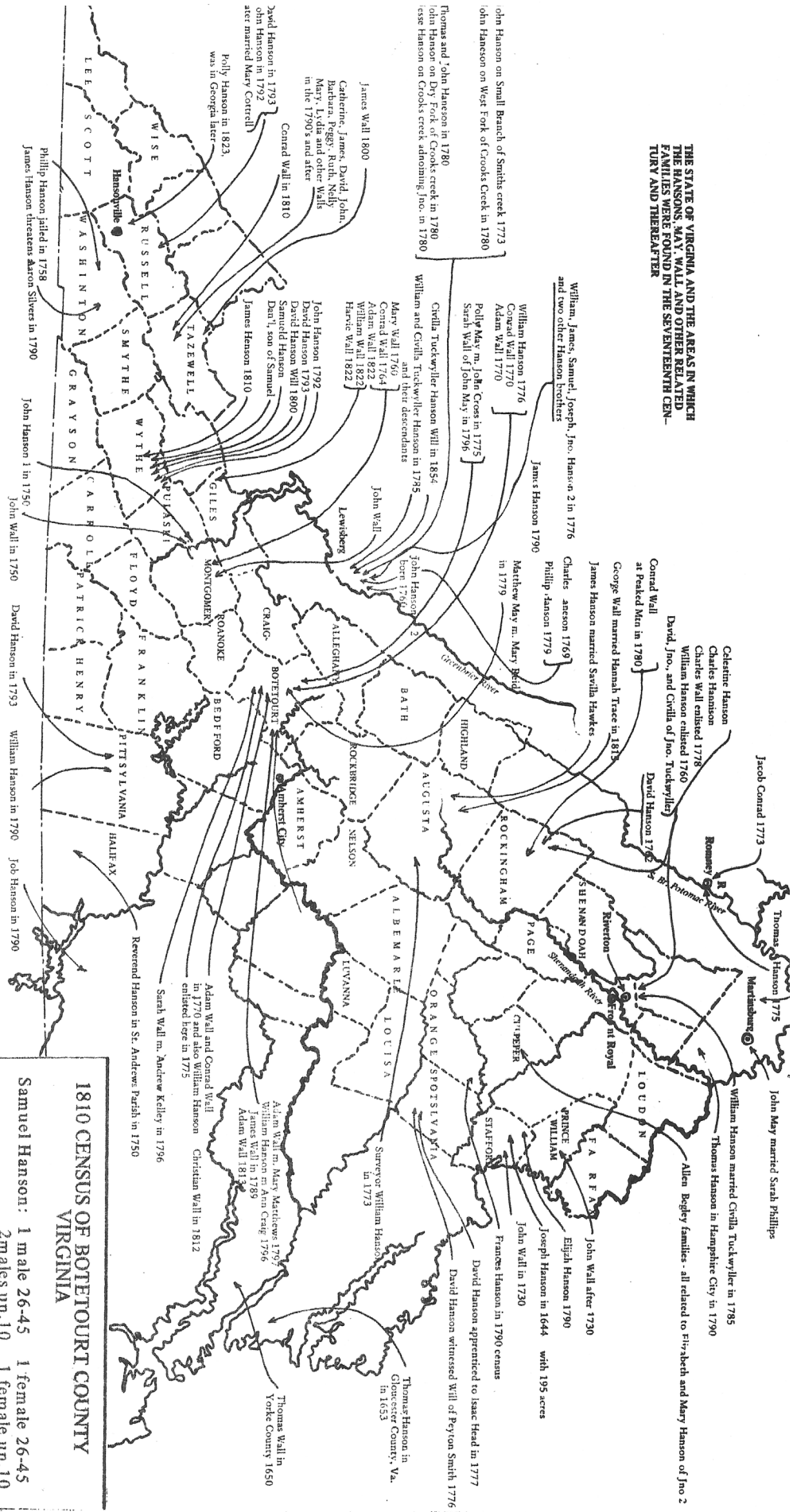
Some other names associated with the Hansons in the early Colonial times are found in the annals of early Ulster, too. On the "Hearth Tax Money Rolls" in 1659 are to be found Darby O'Hamson, Thomas Patton and John Miller. Miller, too, was a neighbor of our John 1 in Virginia and one of the later unidentified Hansons married the "daughter of John Miller or Gayen Miller". Darby O'Hamsons tax was 2 shillings. Thomas Patton lived in Aghanloo Parish while Thomas Patton and his (brothers?) Robert and William lived in Tamlaught, Finlagen Parish. An unidentified Matthew Patton resided in Londonderry.

Seven more O'Hamsons were living at the time of the 1659 Census of Derry, taken at Keenaught. Darby is included as having paid tax on seven hearths meaning that he either owned seven houses or that he had a larger home with more than one hearth. The men O'Hamson were not otherwise listed on the record. Darby had a will but that was destroyed in a fire at Tamlatard in the year 1755, thus closing an interesting connection that may have been made between the O'Hamsons and the Hansons of Londonderry.

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX LISTS**

1783	Thomas Wall	p 8
	Conrad Wall	p 9 "in Capt. Smith's Co."
1785	Conrad Wall	p 6 '1 white tithable
	John Hanson	p 7 '1 white tithable, 1 slave'
	William Millerons	
	Henry Millerons	
1786	William Hanson	p 23 'Wm. Hanson over 21
	Conrad Wall	p 23 'Conrad Wall over 21'
1788	William Hanson	p 23 '1 white over 21'
	Conrad Wall	p 23 '3 whites over 21'
1789	Conrad Wall	p 14 '1 white over 21'
1790	William Hanson	p 6 '1 white over 21
	Conrad Wall	p 6 '2 whites over 21'
1791	William Hanson	p 20 '1 white over 21'
	Conrad Wall	p 20 '1 white over 21'
1792	William Hanson	p 22 '1 white over 21'
	James Heavin	p 22 '1 white over 21
1793	Conrad Wall	(appears for the last time on list)

**THE STATE OF VIRGINIA AND THE AREAS IN WHICH THE HANSONS, MAY, WALL AND OTHER RELATED FAMILIES WERE FOUND IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY AND THEREAFTER**



**1810 CENSUS OF BOTETOURT COUNTY VIRGINIA**

Samuel Hanson:	1 male 26-45	1 female 26-45
	2 males un.10	1 female un.10
William Hanson:	1 male 45+	1 female 45+
	1 male 16-26	1 female 10-16
	2 males un.10	
Adam Walls:	1 male 26-45	1 female 26-46
	3 males un 10	1 female 10-16
		2 females un 10



## And on North Mountain and Muddy Creek

By accepting the 1728-1758 dates for the arrival of our John 1 and his wife provides us with an inkling as to who his associates and relatives were at the time of his residence on the Greenbrier. Colonial Greenbrier at that time was not a county, but rather, it was a vast area bounded by the Kanawha River, the Ohio River and the Mountains of the Blue Ridge. Prior to being designated as the Greenbrier "country" it was a part of an even larger area known as Augusta County.

One of the first Hansons found in records of this area was that of one Jeremiah Hanson who was a petitioner for a road "from Ephriam Love's to the road from South Branch to Swift Run Gap". This petition was signed in 1754 and was signed in behalf of the residents of North Mountain at the head of Muddy Creek. Again, Muddy Creek figures in the Hanson history and geography. It is entirely conceivable that the clan may have already been in America for years before the arrival of our John 1 and that he had a destination planned for when he left the British army.

Leaving the army under a stress situation dictated that John leave as little record of his whereabouts as possible and that he prudently place as great a distance as could be between him and the lengthy arm of military justice. History tells that while justice wasn't always sure it was harsh in its administration.

John 1 and his wife chose to become anonymous and faded into the forests of Appalachia, settling on the Greenbrier River and on what is known as the Proclamation Line of 1783 which separated the native Indians and the white settlers who were not supposed to settle beyond that line. There, in their struggle to make a living for his family John Hanson found danger to be his

everyday companion with hardly a moment without disaster being more than a few yards distant as witnessed by the forementioned killing of the entire family of Clendennins. That family lived in the immediate area of Muddy Creek and has been visited by the writer in his searches. Aware of their helplessness against the Indians, diseases and other calamities bound the Hansons inseparably with contemporary neighbors such as the Phillips, Pollards, Mays, Walls, Tuckwyllers, Conrads (Coonrods), and the Prices (Preiss).

There were two separate massacres on successive days in 1763, one involved the Clendennins and the other the Muddy Creek settlement.

Regardless of John's antipathy toward the military after his early experience he and all his sons were obligated to serve in the Augusta County militia of Colonial Virginia. The first mention of John in this country's armed forces comes when he served in Lord Dunmore's War against the Indians and his army record shows the date 1785 in Botetourt County, Virginia.

Establishing the birthdate of John's son John 2 as 1760 in Augusta and on the Greenbrier provides a tremendously large area for searching out the place they lived and its political name today. Augusta County was cut into no less than thirteen smaller counties in the years which followed. Those counties are now named Cabell, Boone, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Mason, Monroe, Montgomery, Nicholas, Putnam, Roan, Wayne and Webster.

In the records of Augusta County in the 1700's it is found that Jacob Coonrod was a joint owner of ninety-two acres on the South Branch of the Potomac River; this was in the year 1773. One of the sons of John Hanson 2 was given the name Conrad. The Dutch vernacular of those times made the name Coonrod and as such it is carried even into later Illinois legal documents. Botetourt County records mention the marriages of William Hanson and an Ann Craig in 1796, a Martha Hanson and John Knox in 1800, an Eliza Wall and Henry Millerons on May 29, 1780. This Eliza Wall was the daughter of a Conrad Wall and his wife "Catey" Wall and was in turn the sister of our Mary Magdalena Wall who married our John Hanson 2.

An Augusta County entry dated February 1, 1762 shows John Hanson residing in that county with eighteen acres on the Small Branch of Smith's Creek. A Richard Ragan (Regan) was living on adjacent land at the head of the East Fork of Cook's Creek; in this record the man was named John Haneson. In transcribing the record I found it to be "Crook's Creek while Mrs. Woodruff says it was Cook's Creek. In 1780 John Hanson held a hundred acres on the Dry Fork of Smith's Creek. Then a note is found that a David Hanson and a Jesse Hanson purchased land in the vicinity that year. Their precise relationship is not proved yet it appears that they may have been of the original Muddy Creek Hanson clan. Another record shows John Hanson purchasing sixty five acres on the Dry Fork of Smiths Creek in 1780 which adjoined that of a Thomas Hanson. John Hanson also at the same time held sixty acres on the West Fork of Cook's Creek. Other neighbors were a person called "Miller" (possibly Gayen Miller described elsewhere) and a Thomas "Harrison". The legibility of some writing may have made this name's interpretation difficult and it may in actuality have been Hanson instead. This is the case in a lengthy genealogy of the May family by Jackson Begley of Detroit in which the

Two other allied families were the Harman-Herman family described in some detail by Mrs. Woodruff. They were close to the Wall family in particular and she tells that Henry Harman purchased land adjoining that of the "Tutweller" family. Further that record states that William Hanson married "Savilly Tuckweller". In 1770 Augustine Price owned property on Peaked Mountain and his father, Augustine Price, Sr. held land lying between the Shenandoah River and South Mountain. So it is assumed that those families and the Hansons started an early migration down the valley of Virginia and they are found in the later Augusta, Montgomery and Botetourt County records. Mrs. Woodruff also finds the Walls in the immediate area. Mary Magdalena Wall married our ancestor John Hanson 2 about this time and in 1750 a John Wall, father of Mary Wall, described his land as "lying across New River from Horshoe Bottoms" and this pinpoints his farm as being in today's Montgomery County, Virginia along the westernmost boundary where New River nearly makes a loop. This loop is in Pulaski county now. Mrs. Woodruff's travels in this area led her to a small valley into which a stream emptied into New River and then into this small valley emptied many smaller tributaries one of which is called Stroubles Creek. In 1799 Adam Wall describes his holdings as "lying parallel to that of my brother John on Stroubles Creek". Conrad or Coonrod Wall whose daughter Mary Magdalena Wall married our John 2 lived on Wall's Creek in 1750 and this Wall's Creek empties into Stroubles Creek.

On local early maps one finds a May's Mountain and a May's Cemetery which has been searched for graves by a May descendant in 1968 for this writer. No markers other than field stones were discovered. Mrs. Woodruff's earliest finds are today in Rockingham County, Virginia, north of today's Augusta County. author mistakes two Hanson sisters as Harrison sisters, when we have definite proof that they were Hansons who married the same John May in Kentucky.

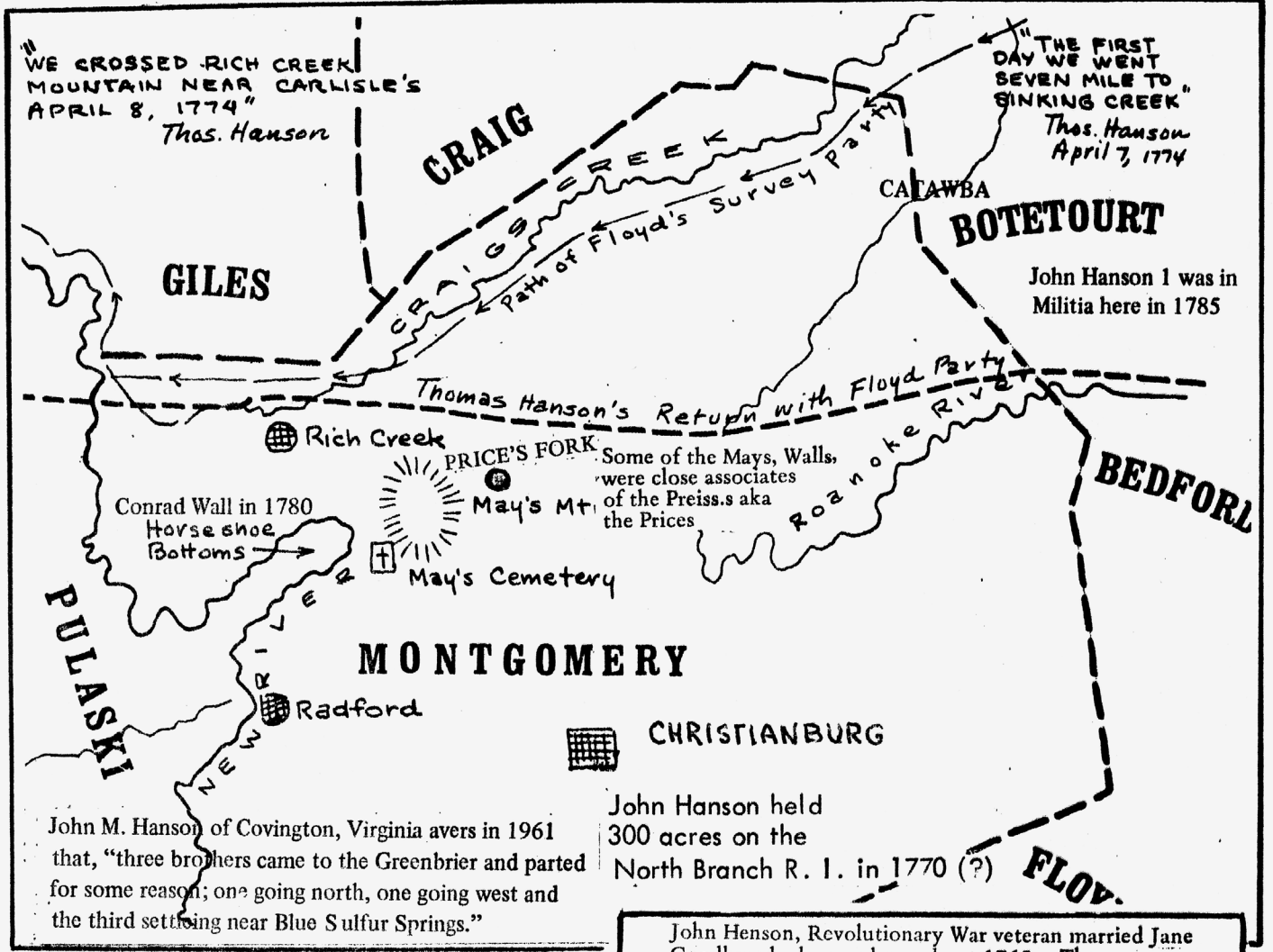
#### JESSE HANSON WAS AN EARLY GREENBRIER LAND HOLDER

Jesse Hanson was probably one of the early progenitors of our family and its vast numbers of members over the nation today.

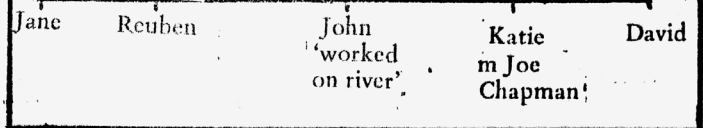
The location of the lands held by Jesse and his neighbors John Hanson and Charles Hanson and Thomas Hanson in old Augusta County, Virginia leads us to feel that they were all of one single breed, despite the spelling of their names.

Jesse's wife Polly was a beneficiary of his estate at his death and received a Bounty Land Warrant in his name. On the BLW the name is given as Henson, yet spelled otherwise on property lists.

There is also a question as to who this Polly Hanson or Henson was. Was she the same woman who is mentioned in the will of one Henry R. Dickenson who died in Russell County, Virginia February 18, 1823 where she is listed as his niece? Two other Polly Hansons are known. In 1827 Benjamin and Deval Hodges proved a will in the County of Harrison, Kentucky in which were mentioned their brother John, a sister Jane Hawkins, two nieces Polly Taylor and Polly Hanson Shipp and an unidentified Albert Hanson.



John Henson, Revolutionary War veteran married Jane Goodbread who was born about 1765. They were married in the spring of 1787. John lived in Broad River, Rutherford County, North Carolina when he enlisted. Was in Vandenburg County, Indiana 1829 when he applied for pension. He died July 25, 1835 in Wayne County, Illinois. Jane lived to 116 years.





"Both Jesse and William Hanson were involved in the Cherokee Expedition"  
Summer's Annals of S.W. Virginia notes that a William Hanson, Revolutionary  
Soldier was from Montgomery County, Virginia.

## Seven Greenbrier Soldier Sons in the Revolution

During these momentous times seven sons were born to John Hanson 1 and his Irish bride and wife. As near as can be estimated they were Samuel in 1750, then William about 1755, James in 1756, and the youngest of them all, John 2 in 1760. The names of the other three haven't been proved but Homer Eiler who was an avid family historian and researcher and traveler in the area about the year 1927 proposes the name of one more, a Joseph, based upon his visits to Greenbrier County, Virginia and on conversations with one Richard Hanson alleged to have been a descendant, but who would not divulge any details without payment for the same. Mrs. Woodruff thinks that the other two brothers may have been David and Thomas. There were, however, several other Hansons in the area at that time with Biblical names. All were in the Muddy Creek region and on creeks and mountains in the immediate area.

Men bearing the Hanson name were not uncommon in Virginia in the 1770's. A number of them were contemporaries whose names were misspelled due to the chirography of the mountain people of the times. One Charles Hannison, for example, held 205 acres on the Greenbrier in the year 1769; either he or a son was seriously injured while serving under a Captain John Stuart in Lord Dunmore's War. In 1776 a Jesse Hanson, known also as Jesse Henson, served in the Cherokee expedition. Jesse, in the year 1764 on May 4 owned eighty acres "adjoining Crabe Apple Bottom". In 1764 David Hanson and Joseph Skidmore jointly owned 80 acres on the South Branch of the Potomac River adjacent to the forementioned "Crabe Apple Bottom". Jesse Hanson, probably the same man, held 30 acres on the Muddy Creek in November 24, 1768 and a widow Mary Hanson is reported to have lived on the South Branch of the Potomac that same year.

About this same period Rebecca Hanson, the widow of Anthony Hanson was living on Sinking Creek in Greenbrier County and a "Widow Anne Hanson"

with all referring to the same men or the same families. Fletcher's History of Ashe County refers to our John Hanson 1 as a pioneer at the turn of the century. In this same book there is reference to a number of Hansons all closely related and to the May family whose pathway westward paralleled that of the Hansons.

The 100 acres owned by John Hanson 2, the son of old John Hanson, was obtained on the basis of his service in the Revolutionary War and a subsequent land warrant was described by John Himself in the Deed Book as "Situating at the mouth of Buffalo Creek including the improvement where he now lives and lying between old William Hanson and his sons. This self same John Hanson 2 has been called and recorded in the books as John Hinson, Henson, Hanson, Hynson, Haneson, Hanniston and Hannison. Also residing in the immediate neighborhood was a Phil Hanson and a Paul Hanson. Paul had entered 150 acres "lying on the North Fork of New River and beginning at a Red Oak, then west, then including the plantation where he now lives for "comp't".

Ray C. Hanson, in 1927, wrote that this country was a wild and untamed wilderness. Truthfully, it must have been, it was at the time unsurveyed and rugged, belonging to a number of claimants and political divisions with the records of that day scattered in a dozen locations. Records of the Hansons are found in Ashe County, in the Annals of Southwestern Virginia, in the Carter County Courthouse, in the annals of the ill-fortuned Watauga area which attempted to secede from the Colonies at one time and on into Tennessee. Old John Hanson 1, according to the notes of our later Wayne Hanson was alive in the 1788-1799 years since Wayne sat down in his record that old John Hanson died "somewhere in Kentucky".

Eiler's Hanson Family History printed in 1928 and 1929 has this to say about his studies and travels and conclusions. He, in turn, relied upon the prior work of Ray C. Hanson of Kinsley, Kansas.

"He, Ray C. Hanson, gives as a date 1750 and that seven sons were born to this couple. Fixing the date of our direct ancestor, John the 2nd, as 1760 and his birthplace as in Greenbrier Country, now in West Virginia, to which place the family had removed, not criticizing our relative James, but I am inclined to think the date 1750 for coming to this country and that seven sons were born . . . . .including our John the youngest, that date would have to be corrected . . . . . the date 1760 bears out every other phase of his life so far as I have searched . . . . . I note that James mentions Greenbrier County as the place of settlement. Greenbrier Country would be more likely for there was no such County before 1760 and after search I have found that the whole region west of the Blue Ridge range . . . was known as the Greenbrier to which history does record that a wonderful migration took place from eastern Maryland about that time, 1760 . . . . ."

maintained her home on Spring Branch and Lick Run on the waters of the Catawba River. A Tom and Phillip Hanson also lived in the Greenbrier area near the Catawba at this time and as late as the 1780's. Of these Hansons John M. Hanson of Covington has said, as have many others, the Hansons were Irish and partly Dutch in nationality. Some years after the war and in 1790 the Hansons removed to the Carolinas. One Mary Jane Hanson, also named Henson in some records, and who was the widow of a John Henson of Virginia and North Carolina received 160 acres of land based upon a Bounty Land Warrant 34933, living at the time in Ashe County, North Carolina. Mary Jane Hanson seems to have been one of the maternal ancestors of our clan of Hansons; her name is mentioned by the Muddy Creek Hansons of this time and her name appears on several Muddy Creek and Greenbrier records of the late 1700's. In the 1780's she resided alongside the sons of old John Hanson 1 as they established themselves in Wilkes County, North Carolina near the Hanson homeplace in a region which has in turn been called Washington County, Virginia, Watauga County, Wilkes County and then Ashe County, North Carolina. As one may imagine and as our first searcher Ray C. Hanson stated, the area was a vast one and hardly surveyed at that time.

In the year 1786 on a Revenues List in Montgomery there are listed three men who were contemporaries and who had business dealings with each other from time to time. They were our John Hanson 1, a John Phillips and David Fanning. Our John 1 was yet in Montgomery at the time of the marriage of his son John 2 to Mary Wall, we may assume that between the years 1786 and 1788 that the Hansons removed to North Carolina in what was then called Ashe County and which prior to that time had been called Wilkes County. The name of the county changed from Wilkes to Ashe about the year 1790. In 1788 John Hanson 1, living adjacent to a Benjamin May, held 283 acres situated in a region to be later known as in Tennessee's Carter County and near today's Johnson City.

This was obviously the time when young John 2 and his wife Mary Magdalena Wall Hanson first removed to the Carolina and a time at which the David Hanson from Ulster was a man of some influence in southernmost Washington County, Virginia.

By the year 1788 the entire Hanson family with the exception of the missing Joseph and Samuel were living near Benjamin May in early Wilkes County, North Carolina. "They moved from the Greenbrier to the extreme northwestern corner of North Carolina, about three miles from the Virginia line. My grandfather was born "between the Ridge". So ran the statement of our James Hanson in 1876.

Between the Ridge is now a colloquialism, as it was then, used to describe the Ashe Valley which lies between the main Blue Ridge and the "escarpment" separating North Carolina from Virginia and mainly Tennessee's Johnson City area.

When the first Ashe County Deed Book was opened in 1799 virtually all the old settlers and land holders rushed to file their land holdings. Among them were "old John Hanson, Sr.": John Henson, William Henson, Jacob May, and William May. Now, at this point the problem of spelling and chirography again enters the picture and helps to confuse the researcher. The name is corrupted by illiterate copyists as well as by mountain dialects to Henson, Hinson, Hynson, Haneson and the like



**JOHN HANSON 1**  
 from Ireland; married  
 Irish "woman" or a  
 "Lady from Virginia"

Eliz. Jesse Matthew John Samuel Sarah Nathan J. Nancy Rebecca  
 (Some accounts place these as the children of a brother William, born in  
 1740 and who was in the Rev. War. I believe that the family above has in  
 its membership one who was the father of our John 1, born in 1728(?))

William Hanson  
 b in 1755 d 1824  
 m Civilla Tuckwyller  
 from Front Royal

Samuel Hanson  
 b 1750

Joseph Hanson

James Hanson  
 m Savilla Hawkes  
 or Hanks(?)  
 The daughter of  
 Rebecca m John W Hanson of----

John Hanson 2 m  
 M Mary M. Wall

Two other brotheers  
 Daniel(?) Jeremiah,  
 on North Mtn. in 1754(?)  
 Jesse, Charles Hannison, Hiram,  
 Thomas, Jared, Phillip, Jacob,  
 Levi, Aaron, Isaac, Abraham,  
 Paul, Daniel, David, or Larkin(?)  
 All were in the area; have Biblical  
 names and were in Carolina later.

"Three brothers came to Greenbrier, one went west, one went north and one stayed ahere". (Wm. Hanson(?))

John Hanson or Henson  
 b 1792, d 1876  
 m. Mary Cottrell  
 of Knox Co. Ky.

William A. Hanson  
 b 1898 in Greenbrier  
 m Mary Jane-----

Hiram Hanson  
 or Henson

Jane Hanson  
 or Henson  
 m James  
 Mc Carroll

Nancy Hanson  
 m 1st cousin Jno. Wesley Hanson  
 of John Hanson 2

Jesse C.  
 b 1822

William

Nathan T.  
 b 1832  
 m Dialphia Compton

William W.  
 m Jane Hizer

Harvic  
 of Fayetteville

Anthony

Richard  
 of Greenbrier

Rebecca  
 m ---Hayes

John Wesley  
 b 1845

Joseph  
 b 1847

George R.  
 b 1849

William  
 b 1851  
 lived White Co  
 Ky. or in  
 d. Norris  
 Co. Ill.  
 City, Ill.

Mary  
 b 1853  
 d Norris  
 Co. Ill.

William R.  
 m(1) Margaret Eary  
 He was born 1846  
 on Muddy Creek Mtn.  
 in Greenbrier

Elizabeth Watson Clarke  
 (the above are possible)

William R. Hanson  
 same as at left  
 may have m Paulina(?)

Walter Hayes  
 Greenbrier W. Va.

John  
 m Mary C.

Florence

Harvic

Anthony  
 m Amanda  
 Sammons or  
 or Simmons

Chris

Charlie

Joseph  
 b 1857  
 m(1)-----Hizer(?)  
 m(2)-----(?)  
 Lived at Dawson Spgs.

Orie W.

Everett W.

Wm. A.

Jno M.

Herbert

Emory W.

Charles

Leslie W.

Gilbert  
 b on Muddy  
 Mountain

Joseph  
 b Muddy  
 Crk. Mtn.

William Bunn  
 b Muddy Crk.  
 Mountain

Charles W.  
 b 1866  
 d 1952  
 m Margaret  
 Susan Judy

James

Raymond R. Hanson  
 Lewisberg, W. Va.

Clifford  
 Hanson  
 Owns store at  
 head of road  
 on crest of  
 Muddy Crk. Mtn.

'Etch' Hanson  
 Anna Paulina  
 m-----Hoke

Jamiel

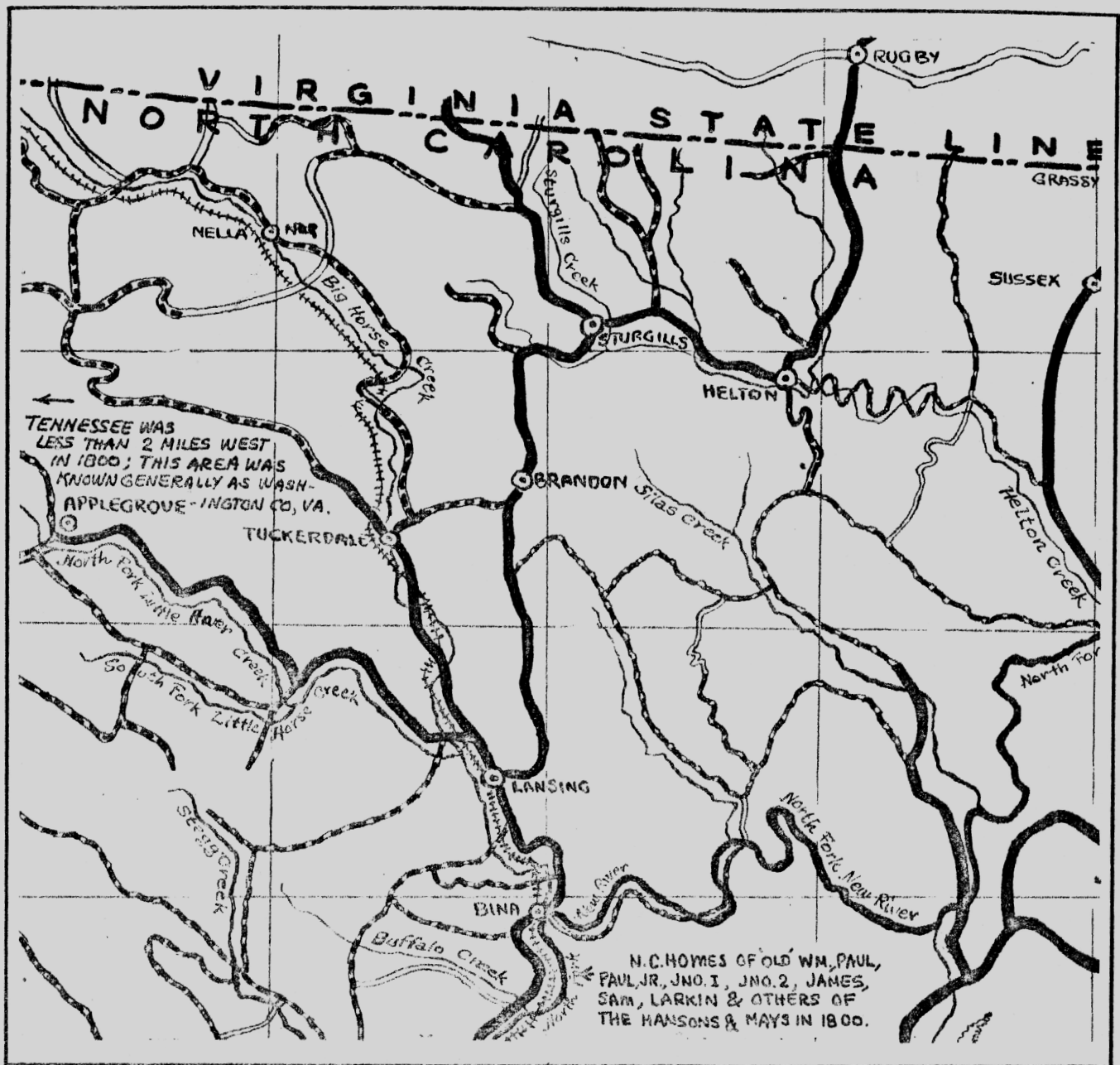
James

Slater

Jeff Hanson

Louise Hoke  
 m Williams

Virtually all the above information has been  
 pieced together from dizens of fragments of  
 fact and traditions related and written by the  
 few individuals listed in the last two generations.



In their second major migration, the Hansons came to this 'vast' region of northwestern North Carolina and settled in today's Ashe Valley in Ashe county 'between the ridge'. The valley is bounded on the east by the main range of the Blue Ridge Mountains and on the west by an escarpment which separates North Carolina from Tennessee. A number of the Hanson families settled near the towns of Bins and Lansing and were living before the 1800's on Big Horse Creek and at the mouth of Buffalo Creek where it empties into the North Fork of New River. The homes were all within the radii of three or less miles. Ashe county was known once as Wilkes county and earlier as Washington county, Virginia. Some confusion existed as to boundary lines in the region which was not surveyed at that time. In the years just before 1800 the Hansons moved a few miles west into Carter County, Tennessee.