

Colonial Cold Case Solved – The Genealogical Linkage Between the Baker-Wynne- Roberson Families

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Dr. Simmon Jones Baker represented Martin County in 1814 and 1815 in the House of Commons and in the Senate from 1816 to 1818. He was a trustee of the University of North Carolina from 1812 until his death in 1853. He was elected the first president of the North Carolina Institute of Education. Baker was grand master of the Masons in North Carolina in 1832 and in that capacity laid the cornerstone of the present capital building in Raleigh, 4 July 1833.¹

As quoted from the memoir “Traditions and Recollections of the Baker Family of which I am a Member” by Dr. S. J. Baker dated 4 Feb 1847.²

“I now return to uncle Zadock (Baker). Whether my great grandfather (Henry Baker II of Buckland)”³ was made suspicious by the conduct of his first wife⁴ is unknown to me, but he certainly believed his last (Ruth Chancey)⁵ to have been unfaithful for he never acknowledged Zadock to be his son and at his death left him no part of his estate.⁶ Zadock left three sons, viz: James and I believe Matthew and Zadock Jr. and several daughters. The widow of the old man she was of the Wynn family married old Robinson an honest and vulgar old man. Two of his sons married two of the old Lady’s daughters.” “I remember well to have seen him at my father’s⁷ house in 1792 or 1793⁸ and was amused with the old gentleman.”

A clue to the identity of “old Robinson” comes with the rediscovery of The Henry

¹ Simmons Jones Baker (15 Feb 1775 – 18 Aug. 1853), physician and legislator, was born in Hertford Co., North Carolina, Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, Edited by William S. Powell, Volume 1, A-C, pp. 92-93.

² “Traditions and Recollections of the Baker Family of Which I am a Member” by (Dr.) S(immons) J(ones) Baker”, p. 3, dated at Scotland Neck, 4th February 1847, transcript prepared by the Historical Records Survey of the Works Progress Administration, May 12, 1938, from The Southern Historical Collection at the Louis round Wilson Special Collection Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

³ Henry Baker II was born by 1680, Isle of Wight Co., VA, and died testate between 9 Jan 1737 and 1 May 1738; Secretary of State Land Grants Record books, 1693-1900, Chowan County, North Carolina, S.108.160.1.

⁴ Alleged to be Angelica Bray; said to be the daughter of Col. David Bray, (1661-1717), son of Col. James Bray, (1630-1691 of James City Co., VA., Seventeenth Century, Isle of Wight County, Virginia by John Bennett Boddie, p.207.

⁵ The Will of Hon. Edmund Chancey Jr of Pasquotank Co., NC, dated 15 March 1753, proven at July court 1753, mentioning his daughter’s Ruth’s children, John Baker, Mary Degrafenred, Blake Baker, Sarah Baker, Sarah Baker, Ruth Baker and Zadock Baker.

⁶ Abstract of North Carolina Wills, by J. Bryan Grimes, Henry Baker p. 15 and Item. I give to my Son Zadock twenty shillings, will written 9 day of January, 1737. <https://digital.lib.ecu.edu/text/13767>, pp.23-24. (accessed 6/8/17)

⁷ Simmons Jones Baker was the son of Laurence Baker and his first wife Anne Jones, Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, Edited by William S. Powell, Volume 1, A-C, pp. 92-93.

⁸ The last public record for Zadock Baker was a land grant no.111, for 193 acres on Wiccacon Creek at the mouth of a small run in Hertford County on 27 Nov 1792, warrant no. 125, BK 80, p.144.

Robason/ Roberson/ Robertson Family Bible.⁹ Old Robinson was in fact Henry Robason referenced in this Bible:

Henry Robason departed this life the 24th of October, 1825. Aged 81 years and 8 month and 6 days under the old stile (12 Aug 1746).

Henry Robason married 1st Sally Collins on June the 29, 1783. (From this union were born :)

Henry Robason son of Henry Robason and Sally his wife was born January the 3, 1785

Collins Robason son of Henry Robason and Sally his wife was born September the 30th, 1786.

William Robason son of Henry Robason and Sally his wife was born September the 8th: 1790.

Charles Robason son Henry Robason and Sally his wife was born February the 4th, 1793.

February the 16th, 1793 Sally deceast. (Probably because of the effects of child birth 12 days earlier)

Winefred Caroline (Wynn-Baker) Robason second wife of Henry Robason Senor departed this life the 24th of October, 1825. (Widow of Zadock Baker)

Charles Roberson married Betsy Caroline Baker February the 8th, 1813.

A second clue

"The widow of the old man (Winefred Caroline Wynn Baker) she was of the Wynn family."¹⁰

Zadock Baker, married [] Wynn.¹¹; *Winefred Caroline (Wynn- Baker) Robason second wife of Henry Robason departed this life the 24th of October, 1825.¹²*

Winnifred Caroline Wynns was the youngest daughter of John Wynns and his second wife Sarah [].¹³ John married first, Mary Boone, the daughter of Elizabeth [] and James Boone.¹⁴ John Wynns, the eldest son of George Wynns and Rose Bush, was born ca 1708 and died testate between 10 Feb

⁹ The North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal, Vol. 42, Number 4, November, 2016, p. 311-314.

¹⁰ "Traditions and Recollections of the Baker Family of Which I am a Member" by (Dr.) S(immons) J(ones) Baker", p. 3, dated at Scotland Neck, 4th February 1847, transcript prepared by the Historical Records Survey of the Works Progress Administration, May 12, 1938, from the Southern Historical collection at the Louis Round Wilson Special Collection Library, University of North Carolina.

¹¹ The Children of Henry Baker II and Ruth Chancey, named in the will of their grandfather Edmund Chancey, [6] f. Zadock Baker, married [] Wynn. Order of First Families of North Carolina, Ancestor Biographies, Vol.1, p.10, compiled by John Anderson Brayton.

¹² See note number nine.

¹³ Order of First Families of North Carolina, Ancestor Biographies, Vol. 2, pp 380-381, compiled by John Anderson Brayton; John Wynn's Will Written 10 Feb 1750, references his daughter Winnifred Caroline Wynns.

¹⁴ Order of First Families of North Carolina, Ancestor Biographies, Vol. 2, pp 380, compiled by John Anderson Brayton; James Boone, died testate between 8 June 1733 and Mar 1735, North Carolina Secretary of State loose wills.

1750 and May 1753, Bertie Co., NC.¹⁵ Winnifred Caroline Baker's middle sister Mary Anne married Zadock's older brother John Baker¹⁶ as his second wife.

An additional clue:

"Two of his sons married two of the old Lady's daughters."

Charles Roberson's marriage bond to Eliza baker was dated 08 Feb 1813.
Henry Roberson's marriage bond to Ann Baker was dated 20 Mar 1814.¹⁷

William Robason married Sarah Rebecca "Sally" Wynns daughter of Daniel Van Pelt Wynns and Lavina Outlaw, on May 13, 1813.¹⁸ Daniel was the son of Winnifred Caroline's brother, Watkins Williams Wynns and Mary Van Pelt.¹⁹ "Watkins Williams Wynns was born 30 Sept. old stile 1742, departed this Life March 20th 1812 on Friday Eavan"²⁰

Collins Robason married Mary "Polly" Baker about 1823, the family relationship to Zadock and Winniford Baker is not established at this time.²¹

How did Henry Roberson meet Winnifred Caroline Wynns Baker? My supposition is that they met through a mutual third party relationship i.e. Winnifred's brother, Watkins William Wynns.²² Luke Robason and his wife Mary, and Henry Robason of Martin County sold on 4 November 1786, Eight hundred acres of land to Watkins Williams Wynns of the County of Bertie.²³

In conclusion the evidence presented in this article supports the fact that Winnifred Caroline Wynns married Zadock Baker. She married, second, after 16 Feb 1793, a widower, Henry Robason. Henry had married first Sally Collins on June 29, 1783. Two of Winnifred's daughters married their step brothers. Eliza married Charles Roberson and Ann/Nancy married Henry Roberson.

¹⁵ See note number nine.

¹⁶ Eastern North Carolina Families, Volume I, David B. Gammon, Editor, p.14, John Baker; married first Elizabeth Wilson; second, Mary Anne [Wynne].

¹⁷ Gates County Marriage Bonds, NC State Archives, Raleigh, Typed by The Genealogical Society of Utah, 80 North Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1943.

¹⁸ William Roberson Bible, North Carolina Digital Collection, Bible Records, search box – Roberson, <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p15012coll1/id/7192/rec/10>. (accessed 6/8/17)

¹⁹ Wynne Genealogy, Win, Winn, Winns, Wynn, Wynns, Wynne by David L. Hughes, p. 1.

²⁰ Watkins William Wynns Bible, North Carolina Digital Collection, Bible Records, search box - Wynns, <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p15012coll1/id/7192/rec/10>. (accessed 6/8/17)

²¹ Little is known about this branch of the family.

²² Watkins William Wynns, born ca 1740, died testate between 20 Dec 1811 and June Ct.1812, Martin Co., North Carolina, Will Book 2, p. 8.

²³ Martin County Register of Deeds, Martin County, North Carolina, DB A, p. 491, Dated November 4, 1786, @ <http://www.martinrod.org/>. (accessed 6/8/17)

