

# 454 221 Helga Wrenn Billings  
JAMES ROSS ANCESTRY  
COMPILED BY

MRS. HELGA PHIFER WRENN, OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE YEAR OF 1952

I am the daughter of the late Helga Phifer Wrenn, DAR National #408333.  
I am a descendent of James Ross.

GENERATION 1:

I am the daughter of Joseph Preston Wrenn, born on November 4, 1910 (Columbia Courthouse) at Greenwood, South Carolina, and his first wife Helga Phifer Wrenn born on October 27, 1912 at Charlotte, North Carolina and died September 15, 1956 at Charlotte, N. C. They were married on February 22, 1930.

GENERATION 2:

Helga Phifer Wrenn was the daughter of Arthur Foster Phifer, born on September 9, 1888. (Family bible) at Union County, N. C. Died at Charlotte, N. C. on July 8, 1925. (Tombstone marked grave in the Oaklawn Cemetery of Charlotte, N. C.) and his only wife MARY ELIZABETH WILLIAMS born on December 12, 1888 at Union County, N. C. They were married on September 14, 1911.

A copy of Mary's birth certificate is attached.

A copy of the marriage certificate of A. F. Phifer and Mary Williams is attached.

A copy of the birth certificate of Helga Mae Phifer, their daughter, is attached.

To the Phifer Williams marriage were born two other children.

1. William Alexander Phifer born September 3, 1913.
2. Edward DeRay Phifer born August 22, 1915. Certificates on file, born in Mecklenburg County.

GENERATION 3:

Mary Elizabeth Phifer is the second child of William Russel Williams born on October 14, 1866 at Union County, New Salem Township, N. C. The son of Able Williams and Martha Emiline Helms Williams. W. R. Williams died at Charlotte, N. C. on January 1, 1936. His grave and stone marker is in lot number 84 of Amith Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Located just off U. S. Highway 74 on Amith Road approximately seven miles East of Charlotte, N. C. His only wife REBECCA JANE ROSS was born February 28, 1872 at Union County, N. C. They were married on December 19, 1886, with the written consent of Hosea Thomas Ross, her father.

A copy of their marriage certificate is attached.

A copy of all the children and birth dates born to Rebecca Jane and William R. Williams, taken from the family record bible, is attached.

As stated above under generation two, a copy of Mary Elizabeth Williams birth certificate is attached.

Bible Readings for THE HOME CIRCLE: Comprising one hundred and sixty-two readings for public and private study, in which are answered over twenty-eight hundred questions on religious topics, contributed by more than a score of bible students. To which is added THE GAME OF LIFE: a pictorial allegory.

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Contains the family record of the family of William Russel Williams and Rebecca Jane Ross, married 19th day of December 1886.

William Russel Williams was born October 14, 1866.  
Rebecca Jane Ross Williams was born February 28, 1872.

Hosea Frankling Williams was born December the 10, 1887.  
Mary Elizabeth Williams was born December the 12, 1888.  
David Lester Williams was born November the 15, 1890.  
Birtha Jane Williams was born May the 6, 1894.  
Marvin Raymon Williams was born May 13, 1896.  
Emma Bland Dener Williams was born January the 24, 1903.  
Colman Russel Williams was born February the 23, 1905.  
John Edward Williams was born February 24, 1907.  
Unica Williams was born January the 30, 1910.

William Russel Williams died January 1, 1936.

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This bible is now in the possession of Mrs. Rebecca Ross Williams, widow of W. R. Williams. She lives with her daughter, Emma, at Charlotte, N. C. Box 182, Route One (1)

Copied January 15, 1952 by Mrs. Helga Phifer Wrenn (J. Preston).

Witnessed by: Mrs. F. D. Austin, Sr.  
Mrs. G. H. Petteway

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New Illustrated Devotional and Practical Polyglot Family Bible  
Containing the Old and New Testaments, Together with the  
Apocryphia, Concordance and Psalms in Metre.

Published by  
THE NATIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY  
JONES BROS. & COMPANY  
M. A. PARKER AND COMPANY  
1870

Contains the marriage record of Hosea Thomas Ross and Sarah  
Catherine Traywick. Listing the births of their 9 children.

Hosea T. Ross of Union County, N. C. and Sarah Traywick of Anson  
County, N. C. were married on October 15th, 1865 at the home of  
Asa Traywick, by the Reverend Landy Wood of the S. C. Conference of  
the Methodist Church South. Witnessed by J. B. Traywick and M. V. Wood.

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Hosea Thomas Ross was born July 17, 1844.  
Sarah Cathrine Traywick was born May 1, 1848.

Martha Ross, daughter of H. T. and S. C. Ross was born and died  
September 22, 1866.

Thomas Asa Ross, son of H. T. and S. C. Ross was born July 22, 1867.

Carrie Ann Ross, daughter of H. T. and S. C. Ross was born  
November 9, 1868.

Saphronia Ross, daughter of H. T. and S. C. Ross was born October 10, 1870.

Rebecca Jane Ross, daughter of H. T. and S. C. Ross was born  
February 28, 1872.

Roxanna Ross was born May 5, 1876.

Bessie Ross was born July 6, 1878.

Joseph Marion Ross was born March 8, 1880.

Rufus Randolph Ross was born November 20, 1881.

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This bible is now in the possession of Mrs. Essie Ross Helms, wife  
of Henry James Helms. (Mrs. Helms is a daughter  
of the above Thomas Asa Ross and Dora Caraway)  
Marshville, N. C. Route Three (3)

Copies February 14th, 1952 by Mrs. Helga Phifer Wrenn (J. Preston)

Witnessed by: Mrs. F. D. Austin, Sr.

Mrs. G. H. Petteway

GENERATION 4:

On the preceding page is the proof of Rebecca Jane Ross birth date and parentage. She is the fifth child of Hosea THOMAS ROSS born July 17, 1844 at Union County, N. C. He died there on August 5, 1910, and Sarah Catherine Traywick. Sarah (Sally) Catherine was born on May 1, 1848 at Anson County, N. C. Daughter of Asa Traywick: Item 3 in his will as recorded in book D, page 154, Anson County December 24, 1880, there she is named my daughter Sarah Catherine Ross. Sarah Ross died at Union County, N. C. April 1, 1884. She and Hosea Thomas Ross were married on October 15th, 1865 in Anson County at the home of her father, Asa Traywick.

Their tombstones and remains are in the Traywick old family burial ground, on state highway 218 N. E. of Marsheville, N. C. On some of the original Traywick Property willed to the other daughter of Asa Traywick. (Elizabeth Meacham) The present owner is Bob Mitchum.

GENERATION 5:

Hosea Thomas Ross was the child of THOMAS G. ROSS Born in 1806 at Anson County, died at Union County after August 2 but before August 23, 1873; and Ala (Olley) Ross born in 1809 at Anson County, died at Union County at the age of 56 in 1865. They were married in about 1829.

The UNION COUNTY CENSUS OF 1850 gave the family:

Thomas G. Ross - - - - -	Age 44	
Ola (Olley) wife - - - - -	Age 41	
Ivan James I - - - - -	Age 19	
Martha A - - - - -	Age 15	
Amos S. - - - - -	Age 13	
Sarah E. - - - - -	Age 11	
Olley M. - - - - -	Age 9	
Hosea Thomas- - - - -	Age 6	
Elizabeth A. - - - - -	Age 2	
Lydia Ross, mother - - - - -	Age 83.	More later from deed book 4, page 639 in Union County Records.

Union County, N. C. Book 9 - Page 370. May 15, 1866.  
THOMAS G. ROSS TO H. T. ROSS

This indenture made this 15th day of May in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Six, by and between Thomas G. Ross of the State of North Carolina and County of Union of the one part and Hosea T. Ross of the County and State aforesaid, of the other part. Witnesseth the said Thomas G. Ross for various reasons and the better maintenance of the H. T. Ross (Hosea Thomas) his son, and the further consideration of the sum of one dollar, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, hath this day given granted and conveyed unto the said H. T. Ross a certain tract, piece or parcel of land, lying and being in the County and State aforesaid and on the waters of Bridge Branch bounded as follows beginning at a stake by a Post Oak and R. O. thence S 23 chs 24 links to a stake by a small Pine and Black



Continued from Union County, N. C. Book 9 - Page 370

Jack then W. 29 chs to a small Red Oak, then N. 23 chs and 50 links to a Hickory, then N. 21 W. 9 chs to a small Hickory on the West Bank of the Bridge Branch, then W. 2 chs to a Hickory, then S. 81 W. down the various courses of said Branch 4 ch 80 lks to a stake by 2 Black Gums and Haw tree on the bank of sd Branch then N. 8 chs to a stake by 3 Pines in an old field, then N. 76 E. 18 chs to a stake by a White Oak and Dogwood, then S. 5 W. 7 ch to the beginning. Containing one hundred eight and 1/4 acres of land, together with all woods, ways, waters, mines, minerals, profits and appurtenances belonging to aforesaid land and I, the said Thomas G. Ross do for myself and my heirs and assigns agree to warrant and forever defend the above right and title against all claims of any other persons to him the said Hosea T. Ross, him and his heirs and assigns forever. In the testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal, the day and date first above written.

Thomas G. Ross

Signed, sealed and delivered  
in presence of A. G. Bass  
G. Stegall

August 2nd, 1873

Then the foregoing deed duly proven before me by the oath of A. W. Bass.

G. W. Flowe, Probate Judge.

Olley Ross, the first wife of Thomas G. Ross having died at the age of 56, in 1865 was buried in the Ross family burial ground. Thomas G. Ross on February 14, 1867 obtained a license to and married Rebecca Manas. John D. Cuthbertson, Justice of the Peace performed the ceremony. Record in MARRIAGE BOOK 1 - Page 167 in Monroe, N. C. Union County Records.

Thomas G. Ross was dead before August 23, 1873. Administrators Bonds Book 1 - Page 24 in Monroe, N. C. states: Know all men by these presents that we: Coleman Stewart, James I Ross, Valentine Smith and J. J. Hasty \$3,000.00 bond for (Thomas G. Ross) Administrators of his estate. 23 August, 1873. Probate Judge, G. W. Flowe.

Union County record of SETTLEMENTS, BOOK 1, PAGE 330-334

Court Sessions March 8, 1875. Estate of THOMAS G. ROSS, DEC'D.

1. Sarah E. Duncan's heirs share, by W. W. Duncan, guardian. \$125.83 4/7
2. Martha Duncan's share, \$125.83 4/7. 3 - Russell Helms and wife Mary's share, \$125.83 4/7. 4- Jacob C. Griffin & wife Lydia's share, \$125.83 4/7. 5- Rebecca Ross (widow) share March 8, 1873 \$125.83 4/7. No. 6 - G. Stegall & wife Minerva's share, \$125.83 4/7. No. 7 - Coleman Stewart & Wife (Jane) share, \$125.83 4/7.

Synder Ross one of the children now deceased and HOSEA T. ROSS and James I. Ross - children of intestate who have been advanced by said intestate failing to account for said advancement are not considered entitled to any share in the estate.

Dower of Rebecca Ross, widow and relict of Thomas G. Ross reads that she had 96 acres of land in H. T. Ross line on Bridge Branch. Union County, N. C. Book 9, Page 559. November 9, 1873.

On the following page is the location of the burial spot of both Thomas G. Ross and his first wife Olley Ross, who is the mother of HOSEA THOMAS ROSS.

Bascom F. Edwards and his wife now own and live on a 96 acre plat of the original ROSS land. His mailing address is Marshville, Route 2 N. C.

In a Pine Covered Knowl on his property is located the "ROSS family burial ground". Mr. Edwards took me to see all of the graves of the Ones who have gone, but remembered still.

Here is buried Thomas G. Ross 1806 - 1873 and his wife Olley Ross 1809 - 1865 age 56. Tombstone very clear.

The last person to be buried here was Thomas L. Stewart a son of James Russel and Lydia A. Stewart. Born November 1, 1878 and died June 2, 1884.

I had the rare pleasure of visiting in the home of an uncle of little Tommie L. Stewarts. He was Thomas Coleman Stewart born November 10, 1865 (86 in 1951) to Coleman Stewart and wife Jane Ross as Named in Book 1 page 330 Settlement of the estate of Thomas G. Ross, father of Jane. Named for his grandfather "Tommie" Ross and his father Coleman Stewart. He was born the year his grandmother Ross died. 'Tommie' Stewart as he is so called around Wingate, N. C. where he now lives with his wife, Lury Isabelle Helms born November 5, 1870. Mail reaches them North Main Street, Wingate, N. C.

Mrs. F. D. Austin, Sr.

Mrs. G. H. Petteway

Mrs. Helga Phifer (J. PRESTON) Wrenn

Were all together on these visits. The cemetery on February 14, 1952. With Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Stewart on February 19, 1952, the Stewarts gave us this information and signed the statement at that time February 19, 1952.

THOMAS C. STEWART

LURY ISABELLE HELMS STEWART

GENERATION 6:

Thomas G. Ross was the child of JAMES ROSS born on June 8, 1761 (pension record) at Martin County, N. C. died at Union County on January 1, 1849, and his only wife Lydia Coburn born in 1767 (1850 census records) at Martin County, N. C. died at Union County, N. C. living with his son Thomas G. Ross in 1850. James Ross and Lydia Coburn were married at the home of her Father, Francis (Frank) Coburn in Martin County, N. C. in 1781. (Pension records).

From the 1850 census record as given in heading Generation 5 Lydia Ross is given with Thomas G. Ross as a member of his household, age 83.

\*Insert - - Attached, page 7 insert of James Ross Willing son land. Union county deed book 4 page 639, in the Court house at Monroe, N. C. DEED made August 6, 1849 between Lydia Ross widow of James Ross of County and State aforesaid of the one part and Thomas G. Ross of the same county and state in consideration of the natural affection which she bears to her son the said Thomas G. Ross and in consideration that the said Thomas G. Ross shall on oath support during her natural life in a comfortable and decent manner, the said Lydia Ross, and let her live with him and in his house or some other house on the Plantation and at her death to give her a decent and Christian burial - deeds all her interest real and personal in the estate of her husband James Ross, also her pension monies coming from U. S. Government for Revolutionary services of James Ross, her husband.

Proven October 7, 1854 by William Hamilton a witness.

LYDIA ROSS (Seal)

William Hamilton

Witnesses

John C. Hamilton

James Ross, Pension number 5857 \$67.50 in Folder W. 5722.

Lydia (Liddy) Ross, widow of James Ross Pension number 6001.

Service record and pension application of James Ross.

State of N. C., Anson County October Session Court 1832.

On the 10th day of October, 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful Court of Pleas and Quarter sessions now sitting, JAMES ROSS, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged 71 years, a Soldier of the Revolution, asking for pension.

SERVICE - A volunteer in February 1781 in the County of Martin under Captain John Kennedy of Solonel Whitemill Hill's Regiment in the Brigades of General Caton and General Butler, joined General Greene's army at Hanging Rock, thence through Hillsborough to Guilford Court House where he met the British Army under Lord Cornwallis. Was in the Battle of Guilford Court House, March, 1781.

Next placed under Captain James Evans and was at Ramsays Mills on Deep River when the Cavalry had a battle with the British. Then under General Greene to Camden, S. C. In battle of Camden against Lord Rawdon in April 1781. Served at least five months and was discharged near Camden, S. C. by Colonel Guilford Dudley in July 1781.

(See page 8 for Continued Service)

\*INSERT THIS DEED AHEAD OF UNION COUNTY DEEK Bk4 Pg 639 on Page 7

Anson County deed Book 10 page 48, August 28, 1833

James Ross, for the love and goodwill that I bear to my beloved SON, Thomas G. Ross, land on Bridge Branch. In the line of Edward Brown and Thomas Griffin 100 acres, also another tract of land consisting of 60 acres.

Signed: James Ross

Thomas R. Griffin

Witnesses

William Ross

Duly recorded October Session 1839.



SERVICE - Again volunteered in Martin County, N. C. in August 1781 under Captain Ballard in Regiment commanded by Colonels Major Eaton and Sewell and was marched to Hillsborough, Salem and Salisbury. From thence to South Carolina on the Catawba River. Served four months having been for some time in the Hospital attending the sick, I was discharged in December 1781, by Doctor.

SERVICE - Volunteered again in Martin County, N. C. in 1782 in the month of January, in the Light Horse or Calvalry under Captain George Cockburn, under Colonel Whitmell Hill's Regiment, served nine months and was discharged in October 1782 having served in all 18 months.

My father lived in Martin County, N. C.

I was born in the County of Martin, State of N. C. June 8, 1761. Record in family Bible.

I was living in Martin County, N. C. when I entered the Service and continued to live there many years after the Revolution and moved from there to Anson County 33 years ago. I am 71 years old in 1832.

JAMES ROSS

-----  
 April 9th Session 1851

William Ross brother of James Ross Swore - - That he (himself) was born in 1770. Was 81 years old in 1851.

That his brother James Ross and Liddy (Lydia) Coburn were married in 1781 by, John Kennedy, a Justice of Peace in and for Martin County. At the home of Frank (Francis) Coburn, father of Liddy, and they lived together in Martin County for 17 years and moved to Anson, now Union County in 1799. My brother, James Ross, and his wife, Liddy, lived together as man and wife until his death, which took place on January 1, 1849. They had eleven (11) children:

Elizabeth	Hugh	Sarah
Dugal	Francis	Thomas (G.)
Polly	Liddy	Margaret
Nancy	Spicy	

(Sequence of births not certain except Elizabeth, according to pension affidavit, said she was oldest child. 1850 census shows Elizabeth Griffin as 68 years old)

April 9, 1851

William Ross

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 James Ross and his wife Liddy (Lydia) Coburn Ross are buried at Fairfield, off highway 200, about 12 miles east of Monroe, N. C. This burial ground is on original COBURN property. Deeded to Staton; Austin (Mark C.) and now owned by a Mr. Waddell, who married one of M. C. Austin's daughters. D. A. R. MONUMENT MARKS the JAMES ROSS, Revolutionary Soldier, GRAVE here in Fairfield.

Book 2, Page 21, Anson County, N. C. July 1813

Will of Francis Coburn -Anson County, N. C.

In the name of God, Amen

I, Francis Coburn of the County of Anson and the State of N. C., being of sound mind and memory, I thank the Lord for the same, but calling the uncertainty of life, the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, I do make and ordain this my last will and testament, in manner and form following, that is to say -

First, I give my soul to Almighty God and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a Christian manner, at the discretion of my executors.

Item 1, I lend unto my beloved wife, Lydia Coburn, all my lands that I have not deeded away, with all my horses, orcharda, household and kitchen furniture, with all my plantation utensils and one negro man named Harvey, one negro man named Arch and one negro woman named Leah, one negro woman named Hannah and all my horses, cattle, hogs and stock of all kinds and each and everything that I am possessed of at this time, during her widowhood or lifetime and at her decease I give to my son, Daniel Coburn, the land and plantation whereon I now live with all the improvements thereon.

I give to my daughter Martha Page the sum of \$10.00.

I give to my daughter LYDIA ROSS the sum of \$10.00.

I give to my son Eleazor Coburn the sum of \$100.00.

I give to my son Headley Coburn the sum of \$10.00.  
enterlined before assigned.

I give to my son Azariah Coburn the sum of \$10.00.

I give to my son Elijah Coburn the sum of \$10.00.

Item 2, I give to my grand-daughter, Charlotte Coburn, the sum of \$50.00. All of which sums are to be out of my estate, after the decease of my wife, and then the rest of my estate to be equally divided amongst my children viz; Martha Page, Daniel Coburn, LYDIA ROSS, Eleazor Coburn, Headley Coburn, Azariah Coburn, Elijah Coburn and Nancy Cobb.

I, also nominate and appoint my loving wife Lydia Coburn and my son Azariah Coburn executors to this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and fixed my seal, this day of July, 1813.

Francis Coburn (Seal)

James Presson  
(Witnesses)

Lydia Harrington

-----  
Lydia Coburn married James Ross at the home mentioned above, as stated by William Ross, brother of James Ross in a statement recorded April 9, 1851 in Pension records on the preceding page. The nick names of Liddy and Frank Coburn.