



THE YNGHA NEWSLETTER

A publication of the Yarbrough National Genealogical & Historical Association

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From Our President
Steve A. Yarbrough



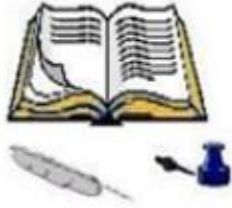
The YNGHA continues to work on the issue of the website, and we are selecting one of two companies to transfer our website to a new and more modern web page for our members to use and review and share information. The YNGHA hopes that the website will be up and running in another month. Once working, the YNGHA will begin to plan for a YNGHA Conference.

If anyone has ideas or thoughts regarding the conference or you want to share a part of your unique family history so that we can share in the YNGHA newsletter, please reach out to me at sayarbie@gwmail.gwu.edu and we promise it will be published and shared with our community.

I have been recently in communications with a long-time member and family historian, Ruth Shipp Yarbrough, who will be 100 years old in September. Ruth has graciously sent a beautiful donation to the YNGHA. In honor of her upcoming milestone, and the great support Ruth has provided the YNGHA over the years, In this issue, I want to share some of Ruth's work from her book, *Remember Who We Are* (see p.5).

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Memories and Dreams

Taking on this new responsibility has been enlightening for me, and surprising. It has brought back many memories of Leonard in days past. Sometimes I wonder, "How did Leonard handle this?" or "What would Leonard do in this situation?"

There are so many things on the horizon, it seems a daunting task to decide what to include in this issue. The 250th anniversary of America, also known as the Semiquincentennial, will be celebrated on July 4, 2026, marking 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. This milestone will include various events and initiatives to honor the nation's history and ideals.

As part of that celebration, we begin a series on Patriot Yarbroughs. In this issue is my fourth-great-grandfather, Henry Yarbrough (1761-1843). There are lots of Henry's in our Yarbrough Family Tree, so you'll have to read the article to discover which one he was! If you have a Patriot (or more than one!) in your Yarbrough family line, please send us their story and we will share them in future issues.

This issue includes submissions from Loeta Yarbrough Venable about Benjamin Yarbrough. Our treasurer, Don, is a descendant of Benjamin, and he was able to add some more detail to that story. Please send any materials you have on an ancestor, and those will be used in the future also.

Alice Yarbro-Holtin

The YNGHA Newsletter

A publication of the Yarbrough National Genealogical & Historical Association

The YNGHA Newsletter is published four times a year by ***The Yarbrough National Genealogical & Historical Association, Inc.***, (YNGHA) at Henderson, TN. Distribution is via the Internet. New issues may be viewed online and/or printed by visiting the website (when it is updated).

Contributed articles are welcomed and should be sent to the Editor, ***The YNGHA Newsletter***, PO Box 732, Henderson, TN 38340-0732. Either hard copy or digital is acceptable, and the submitter will be afforded an opportunity to review any editorial changes prior to publication.

The *TYN* is the interim successor of ***The Yarbrough Family Quarterly*** published by Mrs. Nelle Morris Jenkins. That was actually a newsletter, beginning in 1961 and continuing until her death in 1963. Charles David ("Texas Charlie") Yarbrough began publishing in 1966 and continued until his death in 1985. Charles H. ("Tennessee Charlie") Yarbro next served as editor and publisher of an interim newsletter from 1986 until 1990.

Publication of the ***Yarbrough Family Quarterly*** began in 1991 with Leonard Yarbrough as editor. Other editors were Karen Mazock, Kent Goble, and Gayle Ord. Leonard was the editor until his death in 2025.

Send changes and updates to membership names and addresses, email addresses, and Zip codes to the YNGHA treasurer, Donald Yarbrough, 927 Gailynn Marie Dr., Mount Juliet, TN 37122.

The ***YNGHA*** is a not-for-profit Virginia corporation engaged in Yarbrough family genealogical research and education, focusing on the lineages, deeds, and accomplishments of the extended Yarbrough and allied families.

Benjamin Yarbrough letter written to his wife, Mary, November 9, 1861

Submitted by Loeta Yarbrough Venable

At the early onset of the Civil War, Benjamin Yarbrough, George Washington Sanders, and James Alexander Dugger enlisted at Trenton, TN, into the Confederate, Tennessee 22nd Infantry, Co H, Freeman's Regiment. All three were past residents of the Milan area of Gibson Co., TN.

On November 6, 1861, General Grant moved by riverboat from Cairo, IL, to attack the Confederate outpost near Belmont, MO, which was located directly across the Mississippi River from the Confederate stronghold at Columbus, KY. On November 7, Grant's troops made a surprise attack on the Confederate outpost. Yarbrough, Sanders and Dugger were deeply involved in the resulting combat. Two days later, Benjamin Yarbrough wrote this letter to his wife:

*November the 9th 1861
State of Kentucky
Camp Columbus*

Dear wife

I drop you a few lines to let you know that I am still among the living. We had a hard battle the 7th of this month which lasted about 6 hours. I was in the whole of it and such a time I never saw, the shot fell around me as thick as hale, tho none of them hit me. I fired at them thirty times sometimes at close distance. there were several of our men killed & wounded, among whom was Dugger & George Sanders I fought by Dugger all day till Sanders fell. he called me to take him away. I ran and drew him out of the ground & I saw Dugger no more till after he was dead. he was a brave man and done his part in the battle. I mourn his death. I think George will die. The yankees lay thick, they say we killed & wounded one thousand & taken 80 or 90 prisoner. I am not well and have a very bad cough I would go home and see you but there is no chance now, I will go as soon as I can so no more at present but still remain your affectionate husband until death

this from Benjamin Yarbrough to Mary Yarbrough

Benjamin and Mary McAlilly Yarbrough, daughter of Richard McAlilly, are listed on the 1860 Gibson Co., TN census with five children. Benjamin is the son of William and Martha Yarbrough. Benjamin died the following year on 6 April 1862 at the Battle of Shiloh and is buried at Oakland Cemetery in Trenton, Gibson Co., TN. His headstone shows his birth year to be 1824. His mother, Mary lived in TN until her death 3 May 1891. She's buried in Sanders Cemetery, Gibson County. [1]

George Washington Sanders, born 15 Nov 1839, was the son of William Lewis and Mahulda Yarbrough Sanders. Mahulda was the sister of Benjamin Yarbrough. George's muster roll contains the remark: Killed in Belmont fight, Nov 7, 1861. A Confederate headstone located in the Sanders Cemetery, Gibson Co., TN says "In Memory of Sarg George W Sanders."

[next page](#) 

James A. Dugger is listed on the 1860 census of Gibson Co., TN, living two houses from the Benjamin Yarbrough family. He and wife, Narcissa, are listed with their nine children. James A. was 43 when he enlisted into service. Several of their children later migrated to the community of Beebe, AR, and a copy of the original Benjamin Yarbrough letter was among other Dugger family research material donated to the White County, AR, Historical Society by a Dugger great-granddaughter.

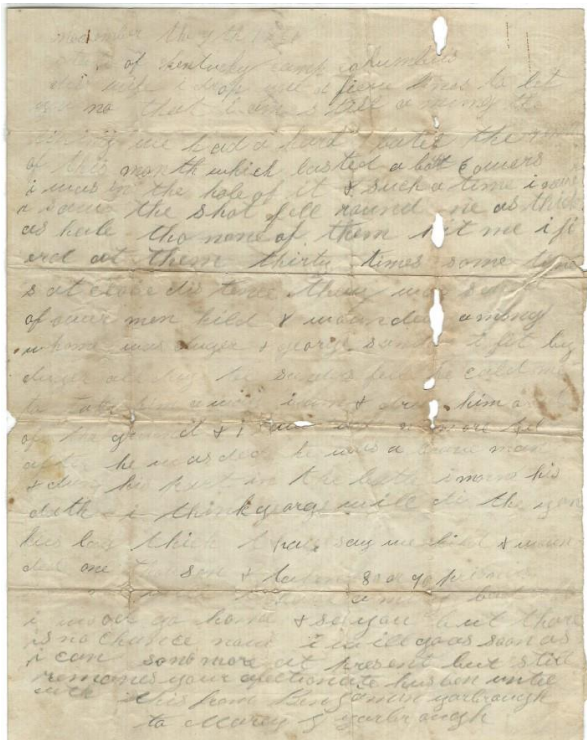
[1] - (The Yarbrough Quarterly, "A Tennessee Yarbrough Family" by Raymond B. Yarbrough; Vol 25, No 1, p. 15).

More on Benjamin Yarbrough

from Don Yarbrough, Treasurer, YNGHA

Benjamin Yarbrough is my great-great-grandfather. The information about Benjamin is correct except he is not, in fact, buried in the cemetery in Trenton. He is most likely buried in one of the Confederate burial trenches at Shiloh. I applied for and received a CSA headstone from the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C. I had the headstone installed in an empty site in our family cemetery plot in Trenton. The headstone was installed beside the grave of Benjamin's son and my great-grandfather, James Walter Yarbrough.

I have in my possession the ORIGINAL pencil-on-paper letter (see below) that is transcribed in the article. It is barely legible and I have it sealed between two sheets of clear mylar. That letter has been around for several years because I sent it around to several interested parties. I have probably a half dozen of the original letters that my g-g-grandfather wrote to my g-g-grandmother, Mary Jane Yarbrough. Mary Jane is buried in the Sander's Cemetery mentioned in the article. The Sanders and Yarbrough families lived between Trenton and Milan, in Gibson Co., TN, and apparently were very close neighbors and friends.



An Excerpt from *Remember Who We Are* by Ruth S. Yarbrough

A neighbor, Spud Miller, once informed me that the name Yarbrough would be easy to trace, unlike the more familiar names *Jones*, *Clark*, or *Miller*. Many Yarbrough researchers would not agree with him, but my task proved to be a genealogist's dream. Since 1760, ten generations have lived within 50 miles of the North Carolina land grant, and the will of Samuel Yarbrough, which made reference to his father in Amelia Co., Virginia, is also available. I have presented the family history in chronological order starting with the earliest generation that I found, plus two earlier generations that are documented but about which I lack positive assurance that they are our particular line. In the text that follows, I have given reasons and some evidence for my belief that these earlier Yarbroughs are direct ancestors.

Much Yarbrough research has been done by a number of persons within the past years, and this documented research has been shared with all of the family members in the *Yarbrough Family Quarterly*. I am most indebted to the researchers for their efforts and especially for their willingness to write and share their stories. Without their earlier history in this section of the book couldn't have been written.

ELEVEN GENERATIONS OF DOCUMENTED YARBROUGH DESCENDENTS

(Thirteen generations are shown here, the first two with limited documentation but a probable connection to our line. Please read their history and decide for yourself.)

Richard Yarbrough, called "Old Richard," was born in England; he died in 1702 and was buried at the site where Old Blandford Church, Petersburg, Virginia, would later be built. He was the father of

Richard Yarbrough II, who married Sarah Holmes Bird Boesseau. This was his second marriage and her third. They are probably the parents of

William Yarbrough, married Elliner _____, parents of
Samuel Yarbrough, married Sarah _____, parents of
John Yarbrough, married Sarah Satterfield, parents of
John Yarbrough, married Sarah Brown parents of
James Madison Yarbrough, married Moriah L. Annanett Lunsford, parents of
Ora Wesley Yarbrough, married Harriett Freeland Rogers, parents of
Madison Simeon Yarbrough Sr., married Myrtle Raynor Leavister, parents of
Madison Simeon Yarbrough Jr., married Ruth Evelyn Shipp, parents of
Callista Victoria Yarbrough, married Kevin Paul Kryscio, and
Virginia Whitnee Yarbrough, married Christopher Todd Steele, parents of
Christopher Todd Steele, Jr.

"FORGET THE SPELLING" The engraving on the original tombstone of Richard Yarbrough has one *o* in the name *Yarbrough*. A second tombstone, placed in 1982, as shown in the picture of the grave. Our forefathers came to this country from England, where the letter "*o*" appears twice in the name, Yarbrough. As you read this chapter, you will find different spellings of the family name as various sources are quoted.

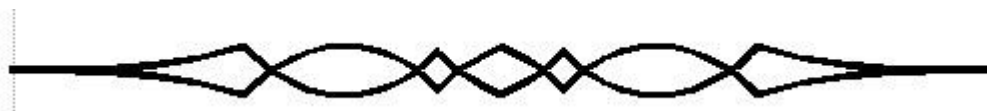
In fact, when confronted with the various ways the name *Yarbrough* has been spelled over the centuries, most associated with the family would be amazed. One writer listed sixty-five different spellings. Genealogist Karen Mazock reports that she has discovered over eighty-seven variations. But no matter what the spelling, all the Yarbroughs were first documented in England around 1086 in the Domesday Book, the survey of his realm commissioned by King William I, the Conqueror.

next page 

1085	GEREBURGH	The village Yarburgh in Domesday Book
1195	IERBORC	Pipe Rolls 1 st series Vol.17, pp26-27
1200	JERDBURG Robert de	Lincoln Muniment D ii 38.3.54
1200	JERDEBURCH Hamelin de	Kirkstead Chartulary
1242	JERDEBURGH Richard de	Patent rolls
1345	YERDEBURGH Robert de	Patent Rolls
1400	YERBERGH Sir Thomas de	Lincoln Assize Rolls
1401	ZERBURGH John Z de	John Z de Zerburgh. Fuedal Aids III
1431	YARBRURGH Richard de	gentleman. Feudal Aids III
1447	YERBURGHT John	Court Rolls of Edlyngton
1490	YERBURGHE William	Court Rolls of Edlyngton
1495	YERBOROWE Richard	Inquisition P.M. John Iwardby
1541	YARBRUGHE JOHN	Will of
1541	YERBURGHE Roger	Will of
1545	YARBROUGH Richard	Will of
1552	YERBURGH Thomas	Inventory of

"Many are puzzled," Yerburgh writes, "as to why the earliest spellings begin with the letters *g, l, j,* and *z.* The answer is that those letters in the initial position represented the same consonantal sound as was the later represented by *y.*" In other words, they would have sounded the same. But, of course, the pronunciation of the name, like its spelling, has varied over time and by country, region, and even by section in our own United States.

Peter Yerburgh also explains that in England the letters *-er* have long been pronounced as *-ar* in certain words. "In England I am a Clerk in Holy Orders but *clerk* is pronounced *clark.*" Yerburgh explains that he knew when he started to school that his surname was pronounced "*Yarbra.*"



Membership Dues/Renewals

Annual membership dues are \$15 per year for individual or family memberships. Please submit to:

Don Yarbrough, Treasurer
927 Gailynn Marie Dr.
Mount Juliet, TN 37122

YNGHA Facebook Page

The Yarbrough National Genealogical and Historical Society has a Facebook page! Join us there for discussions of family history, ask questions about your brick walls, and contribute information about your line!

We have over 1,200 subscribers to our page and encourage you to join us!

The YNGHA page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/YNGHA> or you can search for us on your Facebook browser.

We hope you join us!

In Memoriam

Joan Lafferty Singlaub
Past president of YNGHA

August 21, 1933 — April 27, 2025



Joan Singlaub, a woman whose life was defined by grace, resilience, unwavering faith, and a heart full of love, passed away peacefully on April 27, 2025, surrounded by her family at her daughter's home. She was 91 years old.

Born in the middle of the night on August 21, 1933, on the banks of the Tennessee River in Peter's Landing, to the late Sophia and James Thomas Lafferty, Named after Joan of Arc, she lived up to her namesake—not through grand battles, but through daily acts of courage, kindness, and steadfast love.

Joan loved Jesus with her whole heart, and her faith guided every step of her life. She was also a proud American who deeply loved her country. Joan was devoted to honoring the men and women who served, especially her beloved husband, Major General John K. "Jack" Singlaub, who preceded her in death.

Joan's greatest joy was her family often calling her grandchildren her "precious princesses and prince."

An exceptional cook who could make a soup out of anything, Joan loved entertaining and hosting, filling her home with laughter, warmth, and good food. She was present at every milestone—weddings, babies, holidays—making sure those she loved felt celebrated and cherished.

A gifted seamstress, Joan continued creating beauty with her hands until her final weeks. She had a passion for travel, especially alongside Jack, sharing adventures told in a voice always bright with excitement.

She was also a gifted orator, known for her heartfelt speeches and captivating storytelling. Joan poured her heart into researching her family roots through the Yarborough family line and was proud to be a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Washington, D.C.

In her final chapter, Joan was surrounded not only by family but by caregivers who became like family, each touched by her constant gratitude and loving spirit.

She is survived by her children and step-children: Ira Jo "Jody" Ball (Charles), Debra Satterfield, Sara Guest (the late Dixie), Lis D'Antoni (Michele), John Singlaub (Sydney Coatsworth), and Mary Ann Singlaub; and her brother, Tom Lafferty (Brenda).

She was a proud and loving grandmother to: Rachel Hughes (Stephen), Emily Reig (Adam), Sophia Becker (Jacob), Robert Sanders, Katherine Baker (Davis), Niki Singlaub (Cassi Dixon), Aneka Sweeney (John), Laura D'Antoni (Alex Vaos), and Emily Finne.

Her great-grandchildren, who brought her endless joy, include: Jackson, Chandler, and Willa Hughes, Ethan and Alex Reig, Greyson and Hannah Singlaub, Corbin Sweeney, Alina Vaos, Connor Lynch, William and Alyssa Patriarchi.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, May 3rd at Oakes & Nichols Funeral Home in Columbia, Tennessee. Visitation will begin at 1 PM, with the service following at 3 PM.

She will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery alongside her husband.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Joan's honor to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org, or to Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF) at www.breakthrough1d.org.

Joan leaves behind a legacy of faith, love, and a reminder to cherish every precious moment—to serve with grace, to love without limits, and to always find beauty, even in life's hardest chapters.

<https://www.oakesandnichols.com/obituaries/joan-singlaub>

In Memoriam

Seth Yarbrough Young III June 8, 1941—July 17, 2024
Past member of the YNGHA Board of Directors

Seth Yarbrough Young, III, age 83, of Fayetteville, Ark., passed away on July 17, 2024, in Fayetteville. He was born on June 8, 1941, in Victoria, Miss., to Seth Young, Jr., and Sarah (Mobley) Young. Seth married Margaret "Margie" Young on June 10, 1961, in Ashland, Miss., and they were married for 54 years until her death in 2015. He graduated from Auburn University with a Ph.D. in Entomology at the age of 24. Seth and his family moved to Fayetteville in 1967, where he became the youngest professor at the University of Arkansas teaching at the Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture. He taught at the university until his retirement in 2003 and was recognized with the title Professor Emeritus. He was a member of Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville. Seth enjoyed genealogy, hunting, fishing, gardening, and his annual trip to the White River with family and friends.



He was preceded in death by his wife, Margie Young; parents, Seth and Sarah Young; and brother, Wayland Young.

Seth is survived by his three children, Laurie L. Breeden and husband D.R., II of Alma, Ark., Seth Y. Young, IV and wife Tammy of Farmington, Ark., and Karen S. Holmes and husband Carey of Fayetteville; nine grandchildren, Sarah E. Edwards, Matthew K. Haakenson, Emily K. Freeman, Ashleigh L. Gray, Seth Y. Young, V, Macie J. Watson, Laadan H. Young, Coy L. Holmes, and Chadd A. Holmes; fifteen great-grandchildren; and sister, Darlene Shankin of Tennessee.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville. Burial will follow at Fairview Memorial Gardens in Fayetteville. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at Nelson-Berna Funeral Home in Fayetteville. Memorial contributions may be made to The Alzheimer's Association, alz.org.

To leave a tribute, please visit www.bernafuneralhomes.com. Arrangements are by Nelson-Berna Funeral Home in Fayetteville.

(*Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, Fayetteville, AR, July 20, 2024.)



(dark portion is hill fort)

Yarborough Camp, defensive bank

Yarborough Camp is a hill fort. It is hidden away discretely in woodland, but can be appreciated in the winter, when the undergrowth has died back. The exact date is unknown as there has not been a recent excavation. It gives its name to the Yarborough Wapentake, and was a muster point in Anglo Saxon times. It is the kind of place that might have been used to launch an attack on the invading Saxons as it almost certainly predates them. (Its Old English name suggests that it was a preexisting fortification in the Anglo-Saxon period.)



*Our
Patriots*

Henry Yarborough
North Carolina / Private
Birth: c 1761, Granville Co, NC
Death: January 30, 1843, Tipton Co, TN

Henry Yarborough/Yarbrough was born 1761/62 in Granville Co., NC.¹ He stated in his pension application that he “was born in what was then called Bute, but now Franklin County, North Carolina.”² His father, Zachariah, moved the family to Randolph Co., NC, about 1776.³

Henry volunteered about 1779/80, when he was 18/19 years old, under Captain Brittain Fuller who commanded a horse company. Henry furnished his own horse and equipage. As a private, he volunteered for three but served six months. They were marched from Randolph Co., NC, to Six Mile Creek, SC, where Captain Fuller resigned and the command given to Captain Jacob Williams of Dan River. Under him they scouted and collected provisions. While there it was that Colonel Henry Rugeley “the conspicuous Tory of the Brick House” was taken and with him about 200 prisoners, who at once surrendered upon the exhibition of pine logs painted and made to resemble cannon.⁴

Henry mentions in his application that they passed under the subsequent command of a captain of horse (whose name he could not then recollect) who was attached to General Daniel Morgan’s command. Also there were Colonel William Washington, General Benjamin Lincoln, and General Nathanael Greene. Under the command of Captain Knight and Lieutenant Elijah Williams, he was actively employed in the partisan war against the Tories, participating in frequent skirmishes with them and sometimes pretty sharp fighting. “I was then young and being fired with the atrocities of the Tories I bore hard upon them, sparing the women and children.”⁵

They were marched from Six Mile Creek back to Charlotte, NC, where he was given a written discharge by General Daniel Morgan. After he arrived in Tennessee, he gave his discharge to a man to take back to North Carolina to get his pay. When the man returned, he said he had lost the papers when he fell from his horse into the river. Henry did not believe his story.

After Henry left the company, he continued for several years to carry on the partisan war against the Tories, “who were so enraged against me that I could not stay at home in safety and who did me much damage.”⁶ He refers to being contacted by a messenger sent from Judge Murphey [Archibald DeBow Murphey] of NC, who was about to write a history of that state⁷ requesting a detailed account of the war believing Henry could furnish a more connected history of those events than any other man he knew. However, Henry was upon the eve of moving to Tennessee and replied that he had no time to devote to such matters. For his descendants, his decision is a very deep regret.

His father once again relocated the family about the close of the war to Rowan Co, NC. There Henry married Bridgett Davis on August 29, 1785.⁸ Bridgett was the daughter of Myrick Davis.⁹

When Henry wrote his will on November 4, 1841, he listed his children, giving his daughters’ married names.¹⁰ The children of Henry and Bridgett were Margaret, died aged 14 months; Martha “Patsy” Smith (James);¹¹ Jane “Jinny” Billings (John Henry);¹¹ Betsy Freedle (A. Willis);¹¹ Obedience “Biddy” Smith (John Sr.);¹² Prudence Catherine Smith (Alexander); Henry Yarbrough Jr. who never married; and Mary Martin Smith (Robert L.).

Henry married Mary Cunningham on September 13, 1803, in Rowan Co, NC.¹³ She was the daughter of Hugh Cunningham,¹⁴ and the widow of Joseph Cunningham.¹⁵ They had three children—Edward Thomas m. Jane Kulbreath; Anderson C. “Andy” m. Mary Larimore; and Martha L. m. Charles Augustus Smith. (Anderson C. is my line. He’s the one who shortened the spelling to “Yarbro.”)

In the year 1823, Henry moved to Tipton Co, TN. Goodspeed's *History of Tennessee* relates that Henry was the fourth white settler in Tipton County.¹⁶ He ran a grist mill in the Indian Creek area of Tipton County, near Brighton. He is buried in the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church cemetery.

Family lore has it that when he came to the Covington area, with him were his four unmarried children and all seven of his married children and their families (plus several of their in-law families); two brothers and all of their children's families; and two nephews from yet a third brother, and their families. There is a Yarbrough family line in Gibson County, TN, that is a Y-DNA match to these Tipton County Yarbroughs.

¹ GRS Henry Yarborough, #A132906.

² Revolutionary War Pension Application #S1607, signed Henry Yarbrough Senor, dated 4 Sep 1833, at Tipton County, TN. <https://revwarapps.org>.

³ S1607, Fold3.com.

⁴ Tory Henry Rugeley -- https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_rugeley_mills_2.html. See also Hugh F. Rankin, *Greene and Cornwallis: The Campaign in the Carolinas*. Raleigh, NC: Office of Archives & History, 1976. p. 10.

⁵ S1607, Fold3.com.

⁶ S1607, Fold3.com.

⁷ www.ncpedia.org/biography/murphey-archibald-debow, ¶7. Originally published in *Biographical History of North Carolina from Colonial Times to the Present*, Vol. 4, written by Samuel A'Court Ashe. Edited by C. L. Van Noppen, 1906. pp.340-48.

⁸ Yarbrough-Davis MR; North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Index, 1741-2004; Rowan County, Register of Deeds Marriage License Index List, p.360. Ancestry.com, image 654 of 1893.

⁹ Will of Myrick Davis – Rowan County, North Carolina, Will book G, pp.105-106.

¹⁰ Will of Henry Yarbrough – Tennessee, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1779-2008; Tipton Co, TN, Wills, Vol A-C, 1824-1918; pp. 105-106, images 87-88 of 978; Ancestry.

¹¹ MR Patsy, Jinny, Betsy – North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Index, 1741-2011; Rowan County, Index to Marriages–Female (1760-1998), p.360. Ancestry.com, image 387 of 1570.

¹² Obedience-John Smith MR – Ancestry.com. North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Index, 1741-2004 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA

¹³ Yarbrough-Cunningham MR – North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Records, 1741-2011; Rowan County Marriage Records (1762-1867), Ancestry image 167 of 374.

¹⁴ Hugh Cunningham – North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998; Rowan Co. Record of Wills, Vol G-I, 1799-1845; Ancestry, images 252-253 of 800.

¹⁵ Joseph Cunningham – North Carolina Probate Records, 1735-1970; Rowan County Wills Index, 1757-1837, Vol. 01. FamilySearch image 66 of 423.

¹⁶ *History of Tennessee: From the Earliest Time to the Present; Together with an Historical and Biographical Sketch of Lauderdale, Tipton, Haywood and Crockett Counties*, Nashville, TN: Goodspeed Publishing, 1886. p. 920.

Tombstone of Henry Yarbrough in the
Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church cemetery,
Brighton, Tipton Co., TN (near Covington)
Buried January 1843.



Originally published in *Patriots to Pioneers: The First Tennessee Volunteers*,
Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution (TSDAR), Franklin, TN:
Lithographics LLC, 2024. p.422.

Old Richard Revisited¹

Richard Yarborough was born in Saltfleetby,² Lincolnshire, England, in approximately 1615. Much research has been done by members of the Yarbrough National Genealogical & Historical Association and current research indicates that Lincolnshire is the most probably location for his birth. Richard is buried in the old Blandford Church cemetery just south of Petersburg, VA. His headstone indicated that he died in 1702 at the age of 87, thus the approximate birth year of 1615.

The *Yarbrough Family Quarterly*, a publication printed by the Yarbrough National Genealogical & Historical Association (now available digitally), has covered the known events of Richard's life once he came to the Virginia colony in the New World. Most of what follows in the description of his life comes from these issues.

Richard came to Virginia in the 1640s. It is documented that he was one of the original founders of Bristol Parish in Virginia in 1643. During the early years Richard was in Virginia hostilities with the local Indians were still raging from time to time. In 1644 Col. William Claiborne and his militia destroyed the main Indian village in an area known as Pamunkey Neck. As a result the governor of the colony, Gov. Berkeley created a "buffer zone" between the colonists and the Indians in Bristol Parish called Governor's Quarter. Because of this Richard Yarborough's land is within the Quarter and he is displaced.

In 1654 Richard is found in Pamunkey Neck when he becomes a land partner with John Ayscough. By this time Richard has married (wife's name unknown) and the first of his two proven sons, Richard Jr., is born in 1652/53. (Richard's other proven son is John, b. ca. 1655.) Richard becomes a large planter and begins operating a ferry across the Mattaponi River which became known as Yarborough's Ferry. Richard and his family operated this ferry for a number of years but also lost most of his land in the aftermath of Bacon's Rebellion as it was returned back to the Indians. Part of this land was later surveyed for the College of William & Mary, however I had a co-worker before retirement who had a son that graduated with an Anthropology degree from the College of William & Mary and investigated the matter while a student there. His findings were that the land that had belonged to Richard Yarborough, while surveyed for the college, was never actually used by the college. This land became part of New Kent Co., VA, when the county was formed in 1654.

The Yarboroughs continued to trade furs with the Indians and continued to live in the southeast Virginia area. Either Richard or his son, Richard Jr., was an Indian interpreter and his services were invaluable to the early English settlers of the area. Richard spoke both Algonquin and Iroquois languages fluently. It is documented that Richard went on a trip to New York with Virginia's delegates and Indians in 1685 and was paid for his voyage and services, which were his skills as an interpreter. Richard eventually returned to Charles City, VA, with his sons late in life and they built yarborough's Mill between 1693 and 1696. This was Richard's final resting place and he died there in 1702.

¹ *Southern Journeys, Descendants of Joshua Yarborough*, Cleveland "Cy" Yarborough, 2007.

² This is based on research by our British family authority, Peter Yerburch. However, there is still some doubt as to Richard's father.

Concluding Remarks: The above is about an accurate summation of what is known about Richard Yarborough. Whether he was married before arriving in Virginia is uncertain. However, and contrary to a persistent myth, he never was married to a Frances Proctor. There was a Richard Yarborough who was married to a Frances Proctor, and records exist which clearly show that neither of this pair ever left England.

As to the belief that most Yarbroughs in American descend from Old Richard, DNA evidence so far indicates otherwise. However, many more sets of data are needed before this belief is fact or fiction, as it now appears to be.



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