

LATERRA GENEALOGY SERVICES

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REPORT DATE: June 8, 2016

SUBJECT: LINEAGE RESEARCH ON ELI AND CATHERINE RHODES
First Families of Old Buncombe Lineage Society

REPORT FOR: [PRIVATE]

BACKGROUND: Eli Rhodes married Sarah Catherine Roberts in 1849¹. They lived in the Edneyville section of Henderson County, NC on Bearwallow Road where their descendants still live. Eli's father may have been Jacob Rhodes. Catherine's father may have been James Roberts. Louisa Roberts who may have been Catherine's sister, lived with them for a time around 1860².

1. 1900 U.S. Census, Place: Edneyville, Henderson, North Carolina; Roll: 1200; Page: 8A; Enumeration District: 0038; FHL microfilm: 1241200, line 41, married 51 years.

2. 1860 U.S. Census, Place: Henderson, North Carolina; Roll: M653_901; Page: 739; Image: 185; Family History Library Film: 803901, Louisa Roberts, age 23.

OBJECTIVE: Document a relationship to a pioneer who lived in the area that became Buncombe County between 1792 and 1800 and who were listed on the 1790 or 1800 census in the designated districts, or were signers to the original petitions for forming the new county. The qualification details for membership in the First Families of Old Buncombe are available at the Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society's website at OBCGS.com. If lineage can be established, prepare the documents needed for an application for membership.

AUTHORIZATION: 25 HOURS

FINDINGS: In his will which was recorded on the Henderson County docket for June 1847, James Roberts mentioned his wife Elizabeth, son-in-law William Springs, daughter Nancy, friend Joseph Merrell as executor with Elizabeth, and other unnamed children.³ When the will was probated, 2 children Louisa and Mary Roberts were assigned guardians.⁴

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³ Henderson County, North Carolina Estate Records; Author: North Carolina. Superior Court (Henderson County); Probate Place: Henderson, North Carolina, 1847-1851, Will of James Roberts, Henderson County, NC

⁴ Henderson County, North Carolina Estate Records; Author: North Carolina. Superior Court (Henderson County); Probate Place: Henderson, North Carolina, 1847-1851, Will of James Roberts, Henderson County, NC Administration papers, James Roberts, Henderson County, NC.

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In a petition to the court of Henderson County, William Springs and wife Nancy ask that the property passing from Elizabeth Roberts to her heirs be sold and the proceeds divided between them.⁵

The heirs are named as Eli Rhodes and wife Catherine, Abram Justice and wife Susannah, Mary and Louisa Roberts through their guardian, Alexander Merrell, and wife of petitioner, Nancy Springs.

This shows that the children of James and Elizabeth Roberts are Catherine, Susannah, Mary, Louisa, and Nancy. It also shows that 2 Merrells are close to the Roberts family, Joseph Merrell as executor and Alexander Merrell as guardian.

In a will for John Merrell of Buncombe County, NC, he names his wife as Catherine Merrell, and his children as Sarah Garron, Jacob Merrell, Andrew Merrell, Susannah Owens, John Merrell, Mary Maxwell, Elizabeth Roberts, Catherine Edney, Nancy Patton, and Joseph Merrell, William Merrell (deceased) and a grandson Abner Merrell.⁶

John Merrell is one of the qualifying ancestors for membership in the First Families of Old Buncombe because he is listed on the 1800 Census for Buncombe County.⁷

He lived and is buried in Fairview, NC, in Buncombe County.⁸

SUMMARY:

For the purposes of qualifying for membership in the First Families of Old Buncombe, the family line is as follows:

- **Sarah Catherine Roberts Rhodes** was the daughter of James Roberts and **Elizabeth Merrell Roberts**.⁹
- **Elizabeth Merrell Roberts** was the daughter of **John Merrell**.¹⁰

⁵ North Carolina, Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015. Original data: North Carolina, Henderson County, District and Probate Courts. 1847 James Roberts Estate records, petition by Wm Springs for sale of land.

⁶ "North Carolina Probate Records, 1735-1970," images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-195-2606879-1-0?cc=1867501 : accessed 27 May 2016), Buncombe > Wills, 1831-1897, Vol. A-C > image 18 of 963; county courthouses, North Carolina.

⁷ "United States Census, 1800", database with images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XHR8-JX2 : accessed 8 June 2016), John Merril, 1800 Census Place: Morgan, Buncombe, North Carolina; Series: M32; Roll: 29; Page: 179; Image: 124; Family History Library Film: 337905.

⁸ National Cemetery Administration. U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca.1775-2006 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006, Revolutionary war service, burial 1833 Merrill Patton Cemetery, Fairview, NC.

⁹ North Carolina, Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015. Original data: North Carolina, Henderson County, District and Probate Courts. 1847 James Roberts Estate records, petition by Wm Springs for sale of land.

¹⁰ Transcribed will of John Merrell, from ALOB, Vol.VII #2, p. 86-14: "p. 28. 12 April 1833" from website OBCGS.com, Research Resources, Buncombe County Wills, accessed May 2016.

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- **John Merrell** is the qualifying ancestor because he was listed on the 1800 Census of Buncombe County.¹¹

DOCUMENTS:

The following documents are provided, attached:

First Families of Old Buncombe application

Copies of Records to support application:

Will of John Merrill naming children

Transcript of Will of John Merrell

Will of James Roberts

Petition for sale of land by William Springs naming heirs of James Roberts

1800 Census showing John Merrell in Buncombe county

¹¹ "United States Census, 1800", database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XHR8-JX2> : accessed 8 June 2016), John Merrill, 1800 Census Place: Morgan, Buncombe, North Carolina; Series: M32; Roll: 29; Page: 179; Image: 124; Family History Library Film: 337905.