

**Meek families of
Mecklenburg, NC & York Co., SC**
by Christopher A. Meek

The Meek families of Mecklenburg, NC and York Co., SC are an interesting group that has frequently been misinterpreted and there are many erroneous genealogies based on incomplete data.

It is known that the widow of Adam Meek b: <1726 and her sons migrated to York Co., SC about 1778. Adam Meek b: 1729 (married Elizabeth Miller) had lived in nearby Mecklenburg Co., NC (previously Anson County) since 1754 some 20 years earlier. Other Meek families appear in the records of Mecklenburg County about 1763 to 1765. Andrew Meek s/o Adam Meek b: <1726 also purchased land in Mecklenburg County in 1765.

The period around 1763 to 1765 was a time when when officials of the Carolina's were recruiting immigrants from Ireland. Maryland families were moving to the area at the same time. It was not simply a matter of one Meek family joining another. Whether intentional or not several Meek families settled in the same area. The fact that several Meek families came to one area could be a matter of coincidence and no inference about relationship should be made without additional evidence. No inference about naming patterns should be made without additional evidence.

Because the names Adam Meek and Robert Miller appear in the early records of Cecil Co., MD many people have speculated that Adam Meek b: 1729 and his father-in-law Robert Miller of Mecklenburg Co., NC came from Cecil County. Other surnames are also found in both places. However, there is absolutely NO PROOF that Adam Meek b: 1729 or Robert Miller came from Maryland. Notwithstanding, it is a reasonable hypothesis for a researcher to pursue.

If Adam Meek b: 1729 came from Cecil Co., MD that does not mean that he was related to Adam Meek b: <1726. Adam b: <1726 did have a son named Adam but he was born about 1760. The many genealogies that report Adam b: 1729 as a son of Adam b: <1726 are simply WRONG.

DNA from the descendants of Adam Meek b: <1726, Adam born 1729, Adam born 1746 and Moses Meek b: 1755 prove that they were all related. They shared a common ancestor. However this fact should not be over interpreted. In the absence of connecting paper trails there is little evidence from DNA analysis to precisely indicate when the common ancestor lived. The data from DNA that is available suggests Adam born <1726 was more distantly related to the others. Unfortunately DNA from the other Meek ancestors discussed in this paper is not available.

Meek families of Mecklenburg, NC & York Co., SC

Cecil Co., MD.

Adam Meek b: <1726 – d: 1767 Married Jane Mitchell

Sons: Andrew b: 1747, Moses b: 1754, James b: 1758, Adam b: 1760.

Adam lived in Cecil County as early as **1745**. He died in Cecil Co., MD in 1767. Listed in 1752 tax list. There is some small reason to believe that Adam migrated from Ireland. His wife and sons moved to York Co., SC. Source: *Adam and Jean (Mitchell) Meek and Descendants*, 1996, by Melton P. Meek, M. D.

Feb 1778, Jean (Mitchell) Meek, AKA Jane Meek, purchases land in York Co., SC. The exact date before or after 1778 that she and her sons moved to York County is not known.

Also in Cecil Co., MD

Eastern Shore Vital Record Book 2 (1726-1750), p29

John Meek 1752 tax list

[died in Chester Co., PA - probable brother of Adam b: <1726]

Adam Meek, Jr. 1752 tax list – **MAY BE** Adam b: 1729

[Unlikely to be son of Adam b: <1726 based on reported birth dates]

Robert Miller 1752 tax list – **MAY BE** father-in law of Adam b: 1729

William Meek 1753-1761 tax list

Will of William Meek, Cecil Co., MD, dated 6 March 1764. Prob. **18 Oct 1764**.

Mentioned children, James, William and Jane, also names **brother, James Meek of VA**, as attorney of facts. See Box 13, Folder 48, William, Deceased. 1765 Inventory - Cecil Co. appraised by James Carson and Geo. Johnston, and signed by Thomas Javin and **Adam Meek, a friend**. 14th day of June 1765, came **Ann Meek, the administrator of William Meek**, of Cecil Co., MD.

James Meek 1761 tax list [Son of William????]

Mecklenburg Co., NC

Adam Meek b: 1729 – died 1822 Married Elizabeth Miller

Sons: James b: 1758, Robert b: 1765, Samuel b: 1767

Anson County North Carolina: Deeds/Abstracts

P.33 16 May 1754

Crown to **Adam Meek** - 400 acres on the North side of Broad River on McGees Creek in Anson County.

17 May 1754

Crown to **Adam Meek** - 350 acres on Lower end of the South side of the South fork of the Catawba River in Anson County.

10/11 Feb 1758 Source Brent Holcomb p. 55

Meek families of Mecklenburg, NC & York Co., SC

George Renicks and wife Mary to **Adam Meek** 300 acres on the North side of the Catabo 1 1/2 miles from the river, including the forks of Renicks Run.

Vol. 2 page 75-77

Robert Miller & wife, Rachel to John Henderson (dated **4-5 March 1765**) 200A adj. Wm. Prices line, part of land granted to Geo. Renick 31 March 1753 and 30 Aug. 1753, then conveyed to Adam Meek, weaver, and by **Adam Meek & wife, Eliz.** to James Miller, etc.

Deed book 2, page 464 **Adam Meek & wife, Elizabeth** to John Hill 350A on Long Creek a branch of Catawba River, land granted him in 1754 by Anson County, NC. **Sep 6, 1766**

Land Patents, 1765-1775, p. 529 By Hoffman

Dec 22, 1768 Land granted from Crown to **Adam Meek** of 200 acres on Rocky River in Mecklenburg Co., NC north of Charlotte, adjoining land of **Moses Alexander**, George Alexander, **Charles Harris** and Meek's own line.

May 20, 1775, **Adam Meek** signs the Mecklenburg Petition. [Could be either Adam Meek.] Wikipedia; "The authenticity of the Mecklenburg Declaration has been disputed since it was first published in 1819, forty-four years after it was reputedly written. There is no conclusive evidence to confirm the original document's existence, and no reference to it has been found in extant newspapers from 1775."

He was likely the person in the 1790 census of Mecklenburg Co., NC.

Herman W. Ferguson, *Deed abstracts, Mecklenburg County, NC*, p 175

Dec 17 1793, **Adam Meek** granted 1000 acres on south side of the Duck River in Tennessee opposite of Wilson Creek.

Adam Meek's date of birth is not proven. The first known record of him is dated 1754 which would make a birth date of 1729 feasible. Since he lived until 1822 it is doubtful that he was born much before 1829. He may have come from Cecil Co., MD with his father-in-law Robert Miller but this is NOT PROVEN.

James Meek b: <1745 – d: >1790

Vol. 2 pages 577-579

Dobbs & Wife to **James Meek** (dated 16 Nov. 1764) 235A on head branchesDeed torn....

Bigger, *Miscellaneous Mecklenburg Data*

James Meek was an elder of the Hopewell Presbyterian Church that was established in 1762, and is located between Charlotte and Huntersville. [**About 1770**].

Land Patents, 1765-1775, p. 529 By Hoffman, p. 333

Jan 30, 1773 Land grant to **James Meek** of 115 acres on Rocky River.

Herman W. Ferguson, *Deed Abstracts of Mecklenburg County, NC*, p. 10

Nov 21 1777 **James Meek** and wife Mary sold 115 acres on Rocky River to David Dougherty.

Meek families of Mecklenburg, NC & York Co., SC

He may be the person in the 1790 census of Mecklenburg Co., NC;
Meek, James, Esq. 1 male over 16, 3 females

James Meek identity is uncertain. Adam b: 1729 had a son named James who is reported to have been born about 1758. This would seem to preclude Adam's son from buying property in 1764. This James Meek was **born before 1745**.

Moses Meek b: <1745 – d: 1793

Benjamin Alexander & Wife to **Andrew Meek (dated 1765)** land on ___ side of Cataba, on Fishing Creek. Witnessed by **Moses Meek** [Andrew Meek may be the son of Adam Meek b: <1726 who lived in Cecil Co., MD. Andrew returned to Maryland. Other son's of Adam moved to York Co., SC.]

17 Mar 1780 p.35 reports sale by William Means and wife Sara to **Moses Meek** for L1100 current money for 178 acres on the head of Rocky River (the Welch tract). [This could be either Moses Meek.]

Mecklenburg Co., NC Minutes of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions 1780-1800 -- transcribed by Herman W. Ferguson, Book 3, page 113, **1793 July** Session Ordered that **Adam Meek** take out letters of Administration of all & irregular the goods & Chattles of **Moses Meek**, decd. who came into Court and was qualified in due form of Lae & was Bound with Thomas Davidson, Security, in L400.

Moses Meek witnessed a deed in 1765 and may have been **born before 1745**. He appears to be the person whose estate was probate in 1793. It is curious that Adam Meek was made administrator of the will instead of Moses born 1755. It is presumed that this was Adam born about 1729 and not Adam born 1746 because the younger Adam had removed to Tennessee.

Adam Meek b: 1746 – 1828 Married Martha Wallace

Sons: James b: 1785, Alexander W. b: 1788, Adam K. b: 1798, Daniel b: 1792

1763- *Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Tennessee*, 1974, Lucy Bates

Adam Meek was born in Londonderry in 1746 and immigrated through Charleston, SC. [These facts reported in many Tennessee histories. Proof of these facts is unknown.]

Adam Meek married Martha Wallace 23 Mar 1781

1786- From Goodspeed, *History of Tennessee*, **Adam Meek** received 2000 acres on the Holston River in Greene Co., TN. (NC grant #'s 1675, 1676, 1681, 1684.)

Hitch Hiking Along The Holston River, A History of Strawberry Plains, Jefferson County, Tennessee 1792-1962, by Mayme Parrott Wood, Page 13

In 1788, Dr. J.G.M. Ramsey tells us in his famous history of Tennessee, that **Adam Meek** made the first settlement on the head of Beaver Creek near Holston River.

Meek families of Mecklenburg, NC & York Co., SC

Early historical accounts of his life say that he was born in Ireland. He lived in Mecklenburg Co., NC. He moved to Jefferson Co., TN about 1788. He probated the will of Moses Meek born 1755.

Moses Meek b: 1755 – d: 1807

Sons: Josiah b: 1780, Moses b: 1782

12 Dec 1780

Moses Meek Jr. and wife Margaret to William Pickens for L2000 current NC money 173 acres on the head of Jockey Creek in the Welch tract.

He may be the person in the 1790 census of Mecklenburg Co., TN.

Moses moved to Dickson Co., TN about 1806 and died in 1807. His verbal will was probated in Knox Co., TN by Adam Meek b: 1746. DNA shows that Moses was related to Adam Meek b: <1726 of Cecil Co., MD. It was probably a distant relationship based on the DNA analysis.

Misc. Maryland

Maryland Eastern Shore Vital Records book 2 (1726-1750) page 25

William Meeks s/o **James and Esther Meeks** b. 3 Aug 1743.... St Paul's parish, Kent Co., MD

Summary

For all the records that are available many questions remain about the various Meek families. DNA shows that the three men named Adam Meek as well as Moses Meek born 1755 were related. Combined with genealogical information it is known that none of these four were father and son. While Adam Meek born 1746 cannot be placed in Mecklenburg he was probably there. Eventually he files the will of Moses born 1755 in Knox Co., TN.

There is enough evidence to at least speculate that Adam Meek born 1729 was in Cecil Co., MD at the same time as Adam Meek born before 1726. However it is clear that they were not father and son. DNA indicates that their relationship may have been quite distant. Adam Meek born 1729 came to Mecklenburg in the 1750's but was later joined in the 1760's by the children of Adam Meek born before 1726 as well as several other Meek families that came directly from Ireland.

John Meek born 1745 also emigrated from Ireland to Laurens District in the 1770's. DNA proves a connection to the three Adams and Moses Meek born 1755. This was clearly a large extended family in Ulster that gradually settled in the United States. Hopefully more details about their relationship will be revealed as more information is collected.