

Dick Poplin
112 Lee Lane
Shelbyville, TN 37160

June 26, 1997

Mr. & Mrs. Woodrow M. Poplin:

Dear "Cousins":

I was glad to hear from you again. I feel that together we can solve the Poplin questions yet. I like the shield although I don't know whether there was really a shield or not until some one in recent years designed one. I was glad to see your interpretation of the will of "gorg". I also have an interpretation by William Alexander Poplin III, which I have finally located and am sending a copy plus copies of some of the other material he sent me. The yous and lams in the will would be ewes and lambs. George seems to have had two daughters not named who he cut off (cotny tow daughters of with one shilling sterling a pese for there misbehiven wome) for misbehavior. I wonder what they had done? And I wonder what their names were. I have seen a copy - I have one - of the handwritten will and I make it out as Bill Poplin does.

It has been of interest to me that there was a Henry Poplin in Bedford County Tennessee in the 1820 census as well as my William. I have wondered what their relationship was, but hate to claim Henry. My William was near Unionville, but Henry was in the extreme western part of the county before Marshall County was cut off to form a new county in 1837. In fact he was later in the eastern part of Maury County. Gill Garrett, a historian of Maury County who has written about the old records, gave me some information about Henry and another fellow being involved in a murder of a Hinson. At first it seems that Henry was cleared as he was drung at the time and didn't know what happened. Later, however, he was retried (double jeopardy?) and convicted and sent to prison. I told Helene Hamm of California that I would turn Henry over to her because she is a Hinson descendant and that sounded like it might be a family affair. Her ancestor was Richard Poplin who went to Hickman County, TN in 1830. We have never learned whether she was a descendant of Frederick Hinson in whose family Lucy, wife of Rev. War William, was listed in 1850 as near a hundred years of age. But there seems to have been connections between the Poplins and Hinsons. That Richard's son, John, married a Hinson, and he left more information than any other Poplins have. I don't hear from Helen anymore except at Christmas time. We stopped by and visited her and Bob a short time one day in 1982. She found more info on the Hinsons and I think she, as we all have, came up against the brick wall that formed the gap after George.

I am not satisfied that my William was a son of Rev. War William, son of George. I would like to know that is the way the line comes down but I have never seen adequate proof to satisfy me on that point. In fact, I think we are all just assuming that the George and William who were in the Revolutionary War were indeed the sons mentioned in George's will. I feel pretty certain that they were, but I can't prove it. I like to have proof before I "go to the bank" with it, so to speak. I am still inclined to think my William could have been Richard's son -- the Richard who was listed in 1790 as married but without children. My William could have been born in 1790 after the census was taken. Of course that would still make him a grandson of George if the Richard in the 1790 census was the one mentioned in his will. Lucy said she and William had three children before the War. I wish we had their names.

My great aunt, Kizzy Poplin Faris, who was nine years old when her grandfather William died, said he left home when young because his father remarried and he didn't get along with his step mother, and therefore never learned to read and write. I found Aunt Kizzy wrong about other things, so I don't put any stock to the step-mother story. Many people of that time couldn't read and write. John, William, George, and Every all made their mark for a signature. She may have confused that with William's son Hampton, or Hamp as they referred to him. William married a second time and Hampton left home to go to the post office when he was 18 -- he was listed as 18 in the 1850 census so it must have been soon after that -- and never returned. I have been looking for him ever since I heard about him. I have thought he might be the ancestor of some of the Poplins in western states, but I have never found any evidence of it. In fact, he may have met with foul play and his body thrown into the river or hidden elsewhere. That name also interests me because I have seen Hampton in a Poplin name in North Carolina. Could that have been a family name? There was also

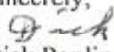
Adams

other Green Lee Poplins. I always thought it was an unusual name and if there was another by that name they must have been closely related. Of course the Lee could have come from his mother, Patience Lee. It is interesting that in almost every Poplin family I have learned about Lee is used as a given name.

The tradition I learned when young from my father was that "Old Grandpap" was 105 years old when he died, but that wasn't correct. He did seem to gain a year with every census. He was shown as 61 in 1850 making his birth being in 1789, but I doubt that he knew exactly when he was born. For that reason, I think he could have been born in 1790 after the census and could have been the first born of Richard. I have never been able to account for the Richard who came to Hickman Co. TN in 1830. I have tried to trace them back to an earlier one, but I find the Richards still in NC after the one who came to Tennessee was already here..

William Alexander Poplin III quotes Beatie Flake on tracing back to George with the will. I corresponded with Beatie and also met her in 1965. She is dead now. I believe she, as other have, was assuming a connection that they could not prove. I don't doubt that it could be correct, but is it indeed correct? I think I will continue to work on it as long as I can. That is why I am so glad to get all the information from you. Lectie Harwood sent me a lot of families of Poplins, among them Jerry Sr. and Jerry Jr., but she did not give dates and it is hard to track them without dates. I will try to make copies to send you as I can and perhaps you can put some of them in their proper places.

This has been long, and I'm not going back to change mistakes. I will send copies of the Bill Poplin material I think might be of interest to you. I am interested in pooling what we have. I do have a lot of information, but I don't have it in good order. May I will live long enough to rectify that error. When I started years ago information was so scarce and the way of preserving it by making copies was difficult that I didn't get it in good order. Now that I have a computer, I have to learn how to get it all together, and that will take time. I'm not ready to get on the internet yet.

Sincerely,

Dick Poplin

Dick Poplin
112 Lee Lane
Shelbyville, TN 37160

July 7, 1997

Woodrow and Linda Poplin
419 Smith Market Road
Columbia, SC 29212

Dear Poplins:

Lectie Harwood died a few years ago. I thought I mentioned that when I wrote about her, but I may not have. I don't think they had any children.

I will send more copies of the material she sent me. At the time it didn't mean much to me because there were no dates and I didn't know much about the connections over there. I had not at that time received the will of George Poplin. I will also send some more of William A. Poplin's material. Perhaps now with other information you have you will be able to put a lot of it together. I know you don't have much time now with the move, but I will try to send more material this week. ~~He~~ didn't have to send stamps. After all, you have sent me a lot of material.

Mrs. Robert L. Hamm (Helene Poplin Hamm) descendant of Richard Poplin and his son John who married a Henson, or Hinson, has the address of P.O. Box 1194, Ojai, California 93024-1194.

Juanita Morris (Mrs. J.D. Morris --her husband is dead) lives at Route 3, Box 241, New London, NC 28129. She gave me information years ago, but I don't think she has done much on the Poplin line lately.

Paula Poplin Stanley, 235 Palm Lane, Lake Jackson, TX 77566 is a descendant of the Poplins around Albemarle. I still hear from her. She might be interested in hearing from you.

J.H. (George is what he goes by although that is not his name) Wheeler is descended from my William Poplin. His wife Joy has done a lot of research on the Poplins and Wheelers. Their address is 508 13th Street, Levelland, TX 79336-6002.

Adine Wheeler 1404 Park Ave. Monroe, LA 71201, is also a descendant of my William. She is a librarian and has done some work on the Poplin genealogy as well as the Wheelers.

There must have been another Richard Poplin other than George's son. Perhaps my William came from him instead of from George's Richard. Of course I don't know that he was Richard's son.

I don't know who the Richard was who came to Hickman County, Tennessee in 1830 (the ancestor of Mrs. Hamm).

I have met and corresponded with some Poplins who I can't connect up with any of the Carolina Poplins.
I'll be writing again,

Dick

August 3, 1990

Dear Dick,

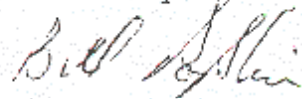
I appreciated your letter and copies of "Poplin Patter". It was interesting to hear about the Poplins that live in states other than North Carolina.

I have enclosed a copy of part of my information on our Poplin family lineage. I am very confident of all of the data except for that on Richard Henry Poplin. We have found two possible Richard Henry Poplins in the Census information who might fit the dates of being born just before William went into the Revolutionary War. However, many of the Montgomery County records were destroyed in a fire so records are incomplete.

We are continuing to do research on Richard and will keep you informed of anything we find. We live less than an hour from the North Carolina State Archives which makes research very convenient. We are currently trying to compile a complete family grouping for the Poplins in Stanly, Anson, Richmond, Montgomery and Chatham Counties as they relate to our family lineage.

I hope you will take the time to read through the records of our five Confederate soldiers. If you can wade through all of the "marching around" you will see five heroic stories. I have good pictures of Martin and Thomas Jefferson. If you can ever help me get pictures of the others, it would be greatly appreciated. Also, I'd like to have that picture you have of Martin and James Alston Jr. if you still have it. I would be glad to pay any copying costs. I will continue to keep you informed whenever new material is found. Thank you very much for your help.

Sincerely,



(WILLIAM ALEXANDER POPLIN III)

P.S. My dad, W. A. Poplin, Jr. was also with the U. S. Postal Service until his death in 1955.

BURIAL SITES OF THE JOHN A. POPLIN FAMILY

1. John A. Poplin and wife Anna: Cemetery at Rehobeth Methodist Church near Aquadale, North Carolina, Stanly County.
2. Thomas Jefferson Poplin, C.S.A.: My great, great grandfather, second son of John Alexander Poplin, buried in the cemetery at the Olivet Methodist Church, about three miles northwest of Lilesville, Anson County, North Carolina.
3. William Henry Poplin: Buried at Harwood Chapel, Primitive Baptist Church, Stanly County, North Carolina.
4. James Alston Poplin, C.S.A.: _____
5. Jane Poplin and Jesse Murry: _____
6. Sarah Poplin, Manlove Kimra, Frank Cooper: Buried at Silver Springs Baptist Church, Stanly County, North Carolina.
7. John Poplin, Jr., C.S.A.: Killed in the Battle of Shepardsville, North Carolina. Buried at the battle site. Shepardsville is now the Town of Newport, North Carolina just west of Morehead City, North Carolina.
8. Martin M. Poplin, C.S.A.: Buried at Piney Grove Methodist Church near Albemarle, Stanly County, North Carolina.
9. Martha A. Poplin and F. M. Wilhoit: Buried at Silver Springs Baptist Church, Stanly County, North Carolina.
10. David Wesley Poplin: Buried in cemetery at Rehobeth Methodist Church near Aquadale in Stanly County, North Carolina.

Richard R. (Dick) Poplin
112 Lee Lane
Shelbyville, TN 37160
Phone (931) 684-2678
December 17, 1997

Woodrow and Linda Poplin
5745 Boone Haven Rd.
Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

Dear "Cousins:"

Thanks for your card and the Poplin information. I am still at an impasse on my line. according to all the censuses, my William who came to Bedford County, Tennessee between 1815 and 1820 was born ca 1790. Richard, one of the three listed in the 1790 census of North Carolina -- the other two being George and John --, was married with no children at that time. I have theorized that my William could have been born soon after the census was taken and probably would have been the oldest of Richard's sons. If Richard was born in 72, he would have been only 18 in 1790. If my William wasn't Richard's son, I have no clue as to whose son he might have been.

I base that partly on the fact that my William had a grandson named William Richard, and he himself could have been named for his grandfather. William Richard also had a son Richard for whom I was named, rather I think I was named for William Richard, my grandfather, and my other grandfather, Rufus Brown, making my name Richard Rufus Poplin.

I can find no oral tradition concerning William's parents. His wife was Patience Lee and they both seem to have come from around Aquadale, NC in Montgomery (now Stanly Co.) In the 1820 census of Bedford County there was a Henry Poplin who was in the part that was cut off into Marshall and next to Maury Co. Later records put him in Maury Co. About the only knowledge I have of him is that he and another fellow killed a Hinson. Henry was acquitted, but later seemingly retried and convicted. Sounds like double jeopardy. He did spend some time in prison. I had thought that he might have been a brother of William, but nothing I have found connects them except the name. Henry could have been for Richard Henry.

My aunt Kizzy Poplin Faris was nine years old when William, her grandfather died. She was a sister to my grandfather William Richard and younger than he, but he did in 1879 and therefore didn't pass along any information. Aunt Kizzy told me some things about the Poplins, but not all the info. was dependable. She said William left home because his father remarried and he didn't get along with his step mother. That could have been true, but he had at least two children when he came to Tennessee. He wouldn't have been under his stepmother.

He couldn't read and write, so would not have corresponded with his relatives back home in NC. He named a son Green Lee Poplin which I thought was an unusual name, but there was a Lee family in Bedford County which may have been Patience Lee's family as there

was a Green T. Lee in it with other children and a widowed mother. There was a John Lee who sold land back in NC. Dad had a brother named John Lee Poplin. I have found at least two other Green Lee Poplins which indicated it isn't such an unusual name after all. I can make no connection with those Green Lee Poplins.

(My) William had sons Green Lee, Alfred (my gr.great-grandfather) and Hampton who was 18 in 1850. Soon after that he went to the post office to get the mail, as the story goes, and has never been heard of since. Maybe I should get him on unsolved mysteries. Did he meet with foul play or did he skip the country and die, as many others did, somewhere in the West, unknown, unloved, and unwept. I have always wondered if I could find Poplins in Arkansas, Texas, or further west who descended from him, but I never have. There is a rather large group of descendants of Ananias Poplin on the Arkansas-Missouri line with whom I have corresponded, but his grandchildren didn't know who his father was. Some remember hearing that he came from Tennessee. Could Hampton have gone there and raised a family of who Ananias was one?

Also, Hampton is not such an usual name, and is see James Hampton Poplin 1857-1900 in William Alexander's line. I guess that could have come from Wade Hampton, the Revolutionary War hero of South Carolina. these are some things I would like to find about about before I leave this world or get too old to care.


There was a Richard Poplin who went from NC to Lewis County, TN in 1830, and then moved over into the next county, Perry. He had a son John who married a Hinson. John moved to Kansas and then to California and left more records than any of the other early Poplins. There is a Jack Poplin whose credits sometimes appear as set designer for movies in Hollywood and others in that area who are descendants of John. The trouble is with finding that Richard in NC that there were still Richards there after 1830.

Are we sure that the Richard in the 1790 census was Richard Henry who married three times? There seem to be too many Richards. And I've always wondered why William who was husband of Lucy was missed in the 1790 census. He seems to have gone back to NC from Georgia before 1790. There have been Williams in every generation except the first one after my William ancestor. My grandfather, my father, a brother, and his son are all William, and also the Richards have shown up frequently. There have been no Henrys or Georges in the Poplins here. In the handwritten census of Graves County, KY, where my William went when Green Lee moved there, William seems to have a middle initial W., but I'm not sure that it is meant to be an initial. I have never run across a middle name or initial other than that.

I have a feeling I may have written all this to you before, but if you run across anything that fits in with this, please let me know. I sure would like to find the parents of my William Poplin and Patience Lee. There was a George Poplin who lived in Coffee County just east of Wartrace which is in Bedford County. But we never knew about them until I met his son Luther. That George worked on railroad construction and often was gone from home for months at a time. He often carried a lot of money on him, and one time he just didn't return at all. Luther thought someone killed him for his money. They said he came to Tennessee when he was 16 years old, and guess what? He ran away from home

because he couldn't get along with his step mother. A familiar story among the Poplins. Hampton mentioned above who ran away from home at 18 or met with foul play, was thought to have run away because he didn't like William's second wife.

Well, enough for now. Hope you are settled in your new home and can really dig into the Poplin family history,


Dick

Richard R. Poplin
112 Lee Lane St.
Shelbyville, TN 37160

Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow M. Poplin
491 Smith's Market Rd.
Columbia, S.C. 29212-1976

Dear Poplins:

It was good to hear from you as I'm always happy to get more info on the Poplins and learn that others are interested.

Woodrow's grandfather was a brother of China Poplin and Edna Shivers, I see. Years ago I corresponded with Edna and in more recent years had a letter from her daughter. In 1965 my wife and I went to Sumter and met China and Edna. I made a tape of them playing and singing. I also later got the album they put out. A year or so ago, I called and talked to Felder and to Edna who was there. I notice from your chart that Felder died in 1996. I believe it was the Le Grand daughter that I heard from.

Edna told me her father left Anson county, NC and went to Sumter and lost track of his kin back in Anson Co. Seems there may have been some difference between them and he never did go back to see his people. I'm glad you have been able to get the information back to Richard.

It is interesting that Richard is a Poplin name in almost every family I have found, but I have not been able to trace back to those by that name in NC. My father had a brother named Richard, and my grandfather was William Richard Poplin. Other Poplins I have found but have not connected to have Richards in their families.

When we visited Anson County in 1965 I met Oner G. Poplin who was very interested in the Poplin genealogy, but he died long ago. Also in Stanley I met some who gave some help, but I've never been able to connect with anyone there although ~~Myer~~-or-gr-grandfather came from there.

William Poplin and wife Patience Lee came to Bedford County, TN between 1815 (when son Green Lee Poplin was born) and 1820 (when Alfred Poplin - my gr-grandfather was born). Dr. Green Lee Poplin said he was born in Montgomery County (it would have been the part that is now Stanly County). I have strong reason to think Patience Lee came from Anson County. They were both around Aquadale which is on the line between the two counties I believe.

1. William Poplin, b. ca. 1790 in Montgomery Co. NC (Stanly)
Died in Tennessee 1850(?) Wife Patience Lee.
 1. Green Lee Poplin b. NC 1815 d. in Mayfield, Ky.
 2. Alfred Poplin b. Tn 1819, d. TN 1890. m. Martha Rushing.
 3. William Richard Poplin b. 1845, m. Anna Jackson
 4. William Anna Jackson Poplin b. Dec. 1. 1879 m. Sadie Brown 1902, d. 1966.
 5. Richard Rufus Poplin b. Aug. 10, 1918. m. Sybil Russell 4/24/37.
Sybil Poplin died Aug. 25, 1993.

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This of course is not listing all the children in each generation. I have two daughters, nine grandchildren, and 12 gr.grandchildren, soon to be 13. One great-granddaughter is graduating from high school this year and plans to go to David Lipscomb University in Nashville this fall.

I had a lot of information from Bill Poplin who comes from those in Anson County, but I can't put my hands on it right now. I think I have seen the names Wes, John, and James F.

I would sure like to learn who the parents of my William were and who the parents of Patience Lee were. I have a computer on order, mainly for the use of the word processor for writing the weekly column I write for the Shelbyville Times-Gazette. I also hope to put some of my genealogy in better order, but I don't know how much I will learn to do at this late date in life.

Thanks for writing and I would like to hear from you again. I believe Bill Poplin is in Rockingham, N.C.

I am the only Poplin by name in Bedford County, Tennessee since my wife died and my brother Thomas died in Feb. of this year. I have a sister, 88, at Normandy in this county, and a brother 91, in Santa Rosa, CA. Another sister died at 92 in Meridian, Miss. in '95. My daughter Beverly West and I plan to go to Calif. June 16 and stay until June 23.

Sincerely,



Dick Poplin

P.S. I put out a Poplin news letter back 25 years ago and learned a lot from NC that I didn't know before. Still learning, so thanks for your family line. Can you go back beyond Richard -- his father, etc.?