

Chapter 1 Introduction

Several Wetherington families live in the Craven County, NC area. This work focuses on the Wetheringtons of Tuscarora, NC in the 9th township of Craven County and nearby Clarks, NC in the 8th township.

The Wetheringtons and allied families have been in the Craven County area from the early 1730's to the current date. This work concentrates on the ancestors of Abner B. Wetherington of Tuscarora and presents additional information on many of the other relations of the Solomon Wetherington line. Several related families in Tuscarora have Wetherington connections by marriage and are included in this writing. The Bratcher, Eubanks, Moore, Register, and Stewart families, among others, have multiple connections to the Wetherington families of Tuscarora.

The Wetheringtons of Tuscarora have long been associated with the Free Will Baptist Church there. Prior to the establishment of the Gethsemane Free Will Baptist church in 1890, the earlier Liberty Meeting House was located on the site of the Gethsemane church cemetery. As early as 1829, the Liberty Meeting House was used by both the Baptists and Methodists of the area until these congregations built new separate new church buildings about 1890. More information on the church is included in Chapter 23.

Many family members are buried at locations throughout the area, the older, primary cemeteries being the Gethsemane Free Will Baptist Church cemetery, the nearby Stewart cemetery, and the Solomon Wetherington cemetery on nearby Rollover Creek. Other cemeteries of the area include the John Moore family cemetery, the Bogey-Richardson cemetery, and the Bratcher cemetery (relocated in the 1970's and incorporated into the Gethsemane cemetery).

The farming community of Tuscarora, North Carolina once supported a post office, railroad freight depot, and several general stores. A history of Tuscarora and map reconstruction circa 1925 is included in Chapter 25.

From about 1830, many articles appear in local newspapers, some mentioning family members, local events and numerous obituaries. Some of these items are listed in the various chapters.

Numerous variations on the surname spelling of Wetherington exist in Craven area records. Generally, the name is most commonly spelled Witherington prior to 1850 and the Tuscarora line adopted the spelling as Wetherington about 1850. Some Wethington, Witherington, Worthington, and Weatherington families currently reside in other areas of Craven, Lenoir, and Pitt County. Various spellings have been used and the same person may have different spellings of the surname over the years in the area records. This researcher did not attempt to determine the original or correct spelling of the surname for a person or family,

but acknowledges the many variations of the surname. The most common spelling for the Tuscarora families is Wetherington, however it was noted that of kin relocating in the 1850's to Tennessee, the surname spelling Witherington was retained.

Both actual dates and interpolated dates reported in this work. Interpolated dates from census enumerations, undocumented marriages, etc. are generally reported in parentheses. Specific dates are from gravestones, death certificates, marriage records, obituaries and other recorded, published more specific date sources are reported without parentheses.