

SO IS OUR
FORTENBERRY HERITAGE
SWEDISH, DUTCH,
OR GERMAN?

Not a simple question to answer!

Genealogy is a never ending search for answers, and often we don't even know what questions to ask!

Once Raymond's DNA results came in and after taking a look at all the DNA evidence, it has become evident that two different ideas about our heritage had to merge into one story. One involves a New Jersey interpreter for the Lanape tribe and the other, a New York family from the Netherlands.

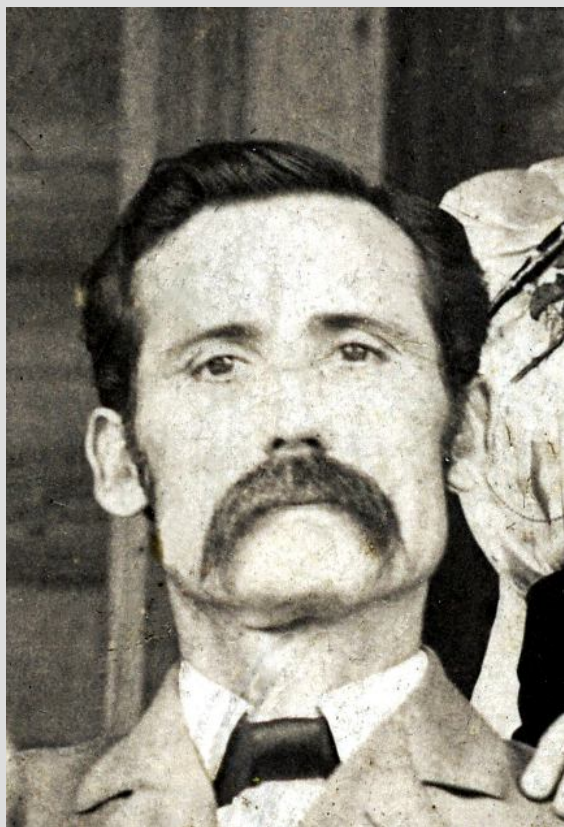
As with all good genealogical research, we must begin with what we know and work backwards. Let's start with Ferman Fortenberry!



He married Nellie Mae Simmons and they had 6 children, all sons. Because of the economy, Ferman moved his family to Clarkston, Georgia in 1939.

**Ferman Esco Fortenberry
Born - June 18, 1886 Pike County, MS
Died - June 9, 1952 Clarkston, GA**

Ferman Esco Fortenberry was the 5th of 12 children of William Jackson Fortenberry and Canolia Ann Elizabeth Simmons. They had 6 girls and 6 boys.



William Jackson Fortenberry
Born - December 5, 1853 Pike County, MS
Died – March 2, 1928 Pike County, MS



They are both buried at the Silver Springs Church in Progress, Mississippi. Side note: Over 80 Fortenberrys are buried in that one cemetery! As you can see here, sometimes the name is spelled Fortenberry and sometimes Fortinberry.



William Jackson Fortenberry was the second child of Burrel Taylor Fortenberry.



Burrel and his wife, Eliza Jane Ellzey, had 5 children, all sons. The oldest was 11 years old when his father went to war. When her husband died, Eliza was only 33 years old and she never remarried. Burrel is buried at the Fortenberry Cemetery one mile south of Silver Springs Baptist Church.

Burrel was the first of his parents' children to be born in Mississippi. His older siblings were born in Lancaster County, South Carolina.

**Burrel Taylor Fortenberry
Born – Late 1820 Pike County, MS
Died – September 14, 1863 Pike County, MS**

Note: Because photographs were rare or nonexistent, there are no pictures of our ancestors from this point back.

Burrel Taylor Fortenberry was the 7th of 10 children born to William Jasper Fortenberry and his wife, Violette Kennington.

William Jasper Fortenberry
Born – 1772-1774 Lancaster County, SC
Died – February 7, 1842 Pike County, MS

1810 Lancaster County, South Carolina Federal census record

Though difficult to read, Wm Fortenberry is our William Jasper Fortenberry and he is living next door to his brother, Israel Fortenberry. It is very interesting to note that the name above William's is a man named George Taylor and that was Burrel's middle name. William and Violette used South Carolina surnames as middle names for several sons: Taylor, Chapman, Kennington, and Horton. William Kennington, listed a few houses down on the census, was Violette's brother.

★ George Taylor	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
★ Wm Fortenberry	2	"	"	1	"	1	"	1	"	"
★ Israel Fortenberry	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	1	"	"
Lewis Soil	"	"	2	"	1	"	"	"	"	"
Jacob Soil	"	"	"	1	"	3	1	"	1	"
Indo Hammer	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
★ Wm Kennington	2	1	2	"	1	"	1	"	1	"

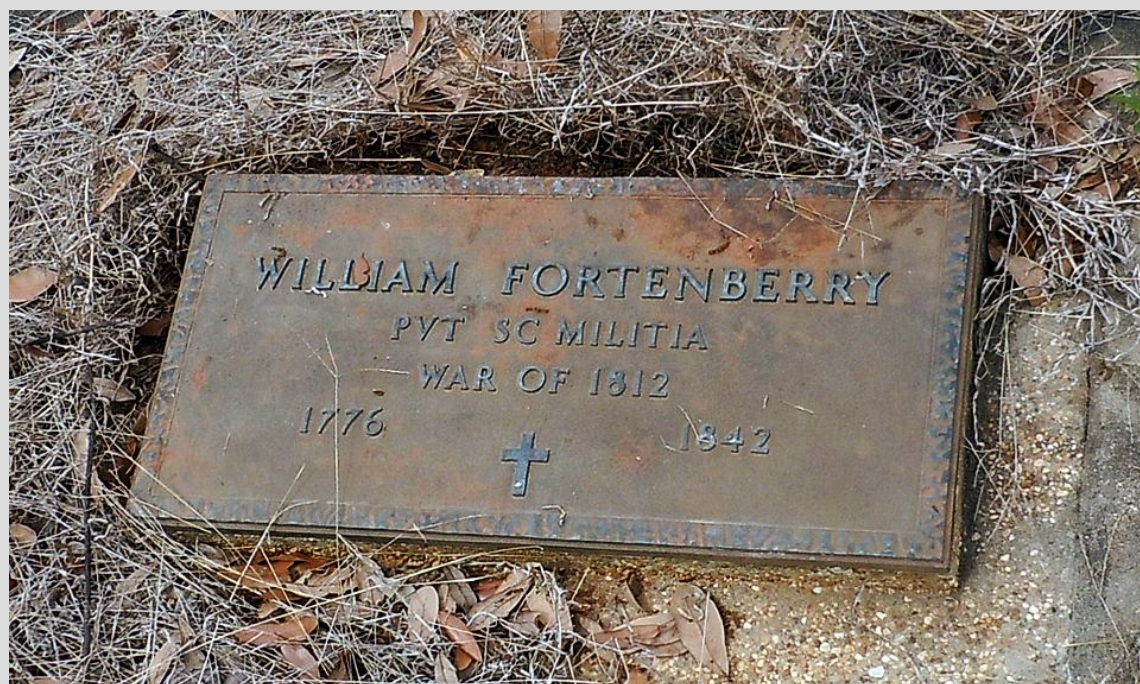
The numbers after William's name indicate that his household contained 2 males under 10 (Gasua born 1805 and Calvin born 1806-07), one male 26-45 (William himself), 1 female under 10 (Euseba born 1809), and 1 female 26-45 (wife Violette).

Note: The early census records did not give much information. In fact, it wasn't until 1850 that the government began naming everyone in the household.



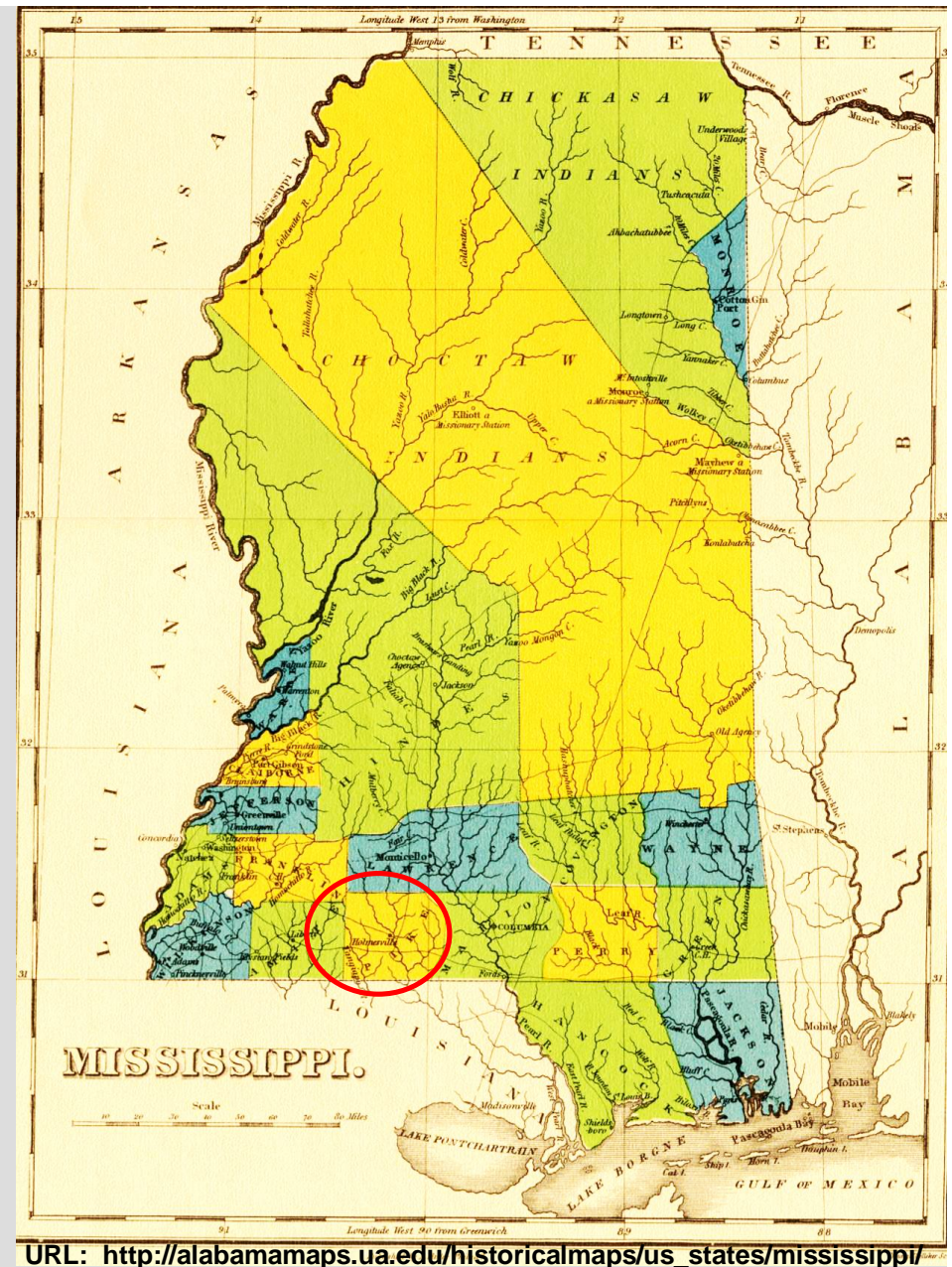
William Jasper Fortenberry is buried at the Pittman Cemetery located ESE of Tylertown, Mississippi. Quite a few of his family are buried here too.

As can be seen from his marker, he served in the War of 1812.



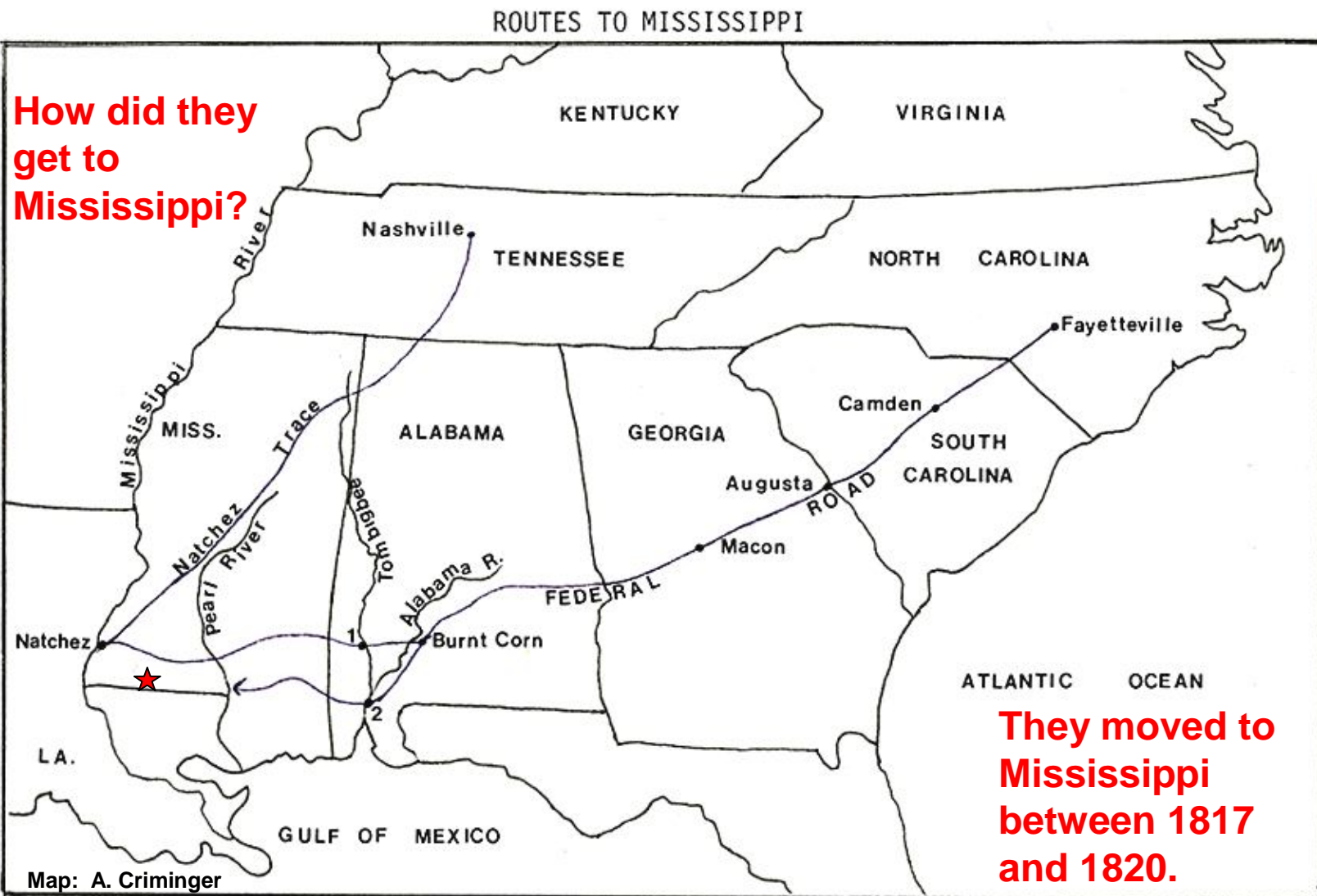
Why the move to Mississippi?

By the early 1800s, cheap land in the newly formed states and territories was available to families willing to take a chance at a new beginning. Due to reduced crop production in areas with poor soil, people began to move into Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas. Think about family dynamics. What event would be the impetus for leaving? Most often, when the father of grown sons died, the sons would then be willing to take the steps to leave, especially if other family members wished to stay on the old homestead. This indeed was the event that caused William Jasper to decide to move to Mississippi. William and his family moved to Mississippi between 1817 and 1820.



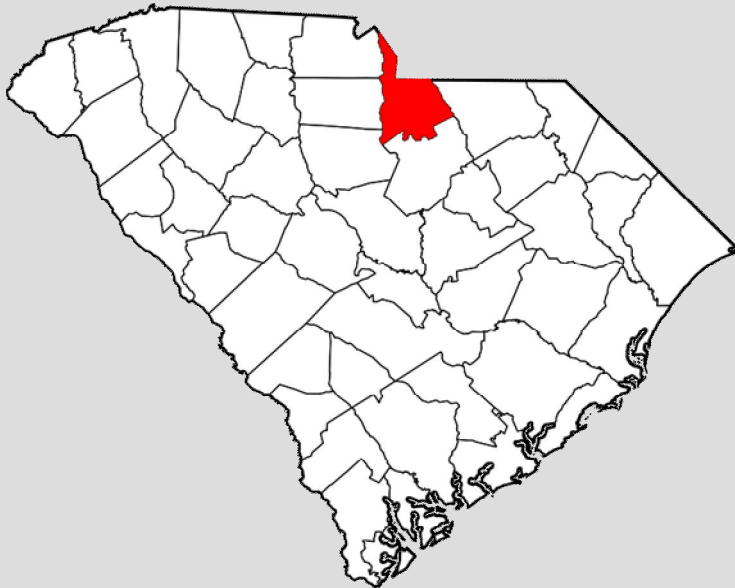
URL: http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/us_states/mississippi/

Mississippi became a state on December 10, 1817. On the above 1824 map, one can see that most of the state was still “owned” by the Choctaws and Chickasaws. William settled his family in Pike County (circled in red).



The route William and his family would have taken across the South was and still is called The Old Federal Road. It was a “road” connecting forts across the south that afforded travelers places to stop along their way. They were living only about 30 miles north of Camden, South Carolina. Once reaching Burnt Corn, the family could have taken either route shown to their final destination (red star).

A future post will tell the story of the life and times of William Jasper Fortenberry as there is much more to say about him! That post will also discuss another Mississippi pioneer ancestor of ours – Willis Simmons.



URL: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lancaster_County,_South_Carolina

As mentioned, William Jasper Fortenberry was born in Lancaster County, South Carolina (shown here in red). Sometime between 1800 and 1804, he married Violette Kennington, daughter of John Kennington, also of Lancaster County, South Carolina. Their son, Calvin, was given the middle name of Kennington.

In the Lancaster County court records, such as lists for jury duty, William and his relatives are listed with a last name of Fortenberry. In the deed books of the exact same time, their name appears most often as Faulkenberry or Falkenberry. Remember in the DNA post, I mentioned that in Lancaster County, South Carolina, the name Faulkenberry is pronounced Fortenberry. Evidently the court recorder was spelling it according to what was heard. Once in Mississippi, OUR family name is always Fortenberry/Fortinberry.

William Jasper Fortenberry was the oldest son of John Faulkenberry and his wife, Hannah Eubanks (Hubanks). After John's death, Hannah moved to Mississippi with her son William's family.

**John Faulkenberry
Born about 1740 Old Orange County, Virginia
Baptized in 1740 Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church
Died – 1815 Lancaster County, South Carolina**

On April 15, 1786, John Hubanks of Chesterfiled County, South Carolina to JOHN FAULKENBERRY of Camden District, Lancaster County for 10 shillings, 100 acres on Lynches Creek “where the said JOHN FAULKENBERRY now lives.” ¹

Note: The fact that John was already living on the property and John Hubanks only charged 10 shillings is an indication of a close relationship between the two men. It took 20 shillings to equal one pound sterling ² and during that time period, 100 acres in the area sold for between 20 and 100 pounds. Due to the conventions of the time, it is reasonable to infer that Hubanks was selling property he owned to his daughter and her husband, John Faulkenberry.

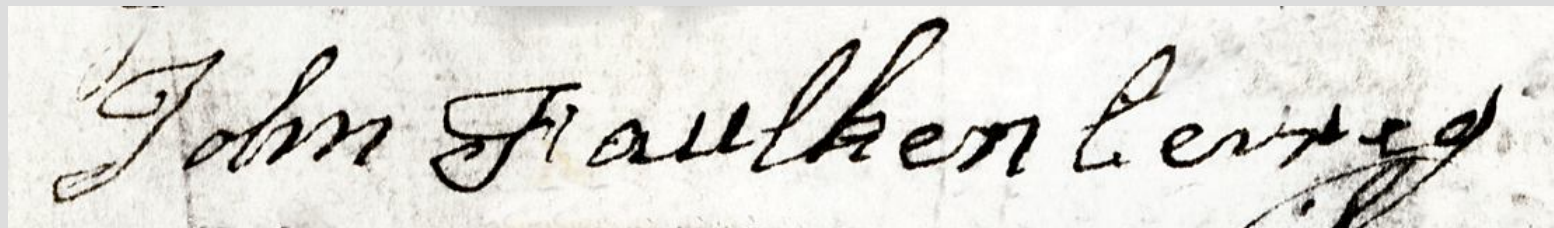
In 1794, John Faulkenberry, along with 85 others (including 7 other Faulkenberry men), signed a petition sent to the South Carolina government concerning equal representation. ³ Because of the amazing historical references, I have included a transcript, exactly as written, of the entire document on the following slide.

One cannot help but wonder what our ancestors would think of our government today!

To the Honourable the Senate and House of Representations of the State of South Carolina

The Petition of the Citizens of Lancaster County Modestly Sheweth – That your Petitioners Living at the Expense of there blood and risk of there lives Lately broken off the Shackles of Despotism with which they were fettered by the King of grate Britain having as they trusted Established a Republican Government being in there Opinion the Only Government that is Capable of making the Citizens virtuous and hapy that we have for borne time Experienced a number of those priviledges & Advantages which are to be Expected there from but are at the same time firmly persuaded that a Continuation of those Advantages depends in a grate measure upon a Just Apportionment of Representation which upon fair & empartial Inquiry We find we do not enjoy – but that the representation of State is very unequal Concequantly highly dangerous to Our further Liberties therefore a grate grevence. Your petitioners humbly trust that your Honourable Body will take this there grate griaviance into Serous Consideration & take Such Measures to remove the same as your Collective Wisdom may Suggest to be beast

In full Confidence of the Justice of your honourable Body and hearty willingness at all times to Ridress Our greavence we take the Lliberty to Subscribe Ourselves your Obedent Servants -

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Faulkenberry". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged and slightly textured. The signature is written in a fluid, connected style typical of 18th-century handwriting.

An event of historical significance

Strangely enough, by the 1750s, there were quite a few Faulkenberry men showing up in the records of North Carolina and South Carolina. The border between North and South Carolina was not very well established, and there have been books written about land grants and deeds issued in North Carolina but were actually in South Carolina. To complicate things, they all named their sons Henry, Isaac, Jacob, Andrew, or John! It is very difficult to separate family groups! Also many records from the time have been burned – thanks a lot Sherman! As is evident by the previous 1794 South Carolina petition, we do know that our family has stood up to authority when faced with unfairness.

Almost 30 years before that petition in South Carolina, an amazing event occurred in North Carolina called the Regulator Movement. It was an early rebellion against high or unfair taxes and is often stated as being the first act of the Revolutionary War.”⁴

Though our direct line was already in South Carolina and probably not directly involved, this amazing story concerns our uncles, aunts, and cousins and our many, many kin descended from the men of North Carolina!



GOVERNOR TRYON AND THE REGULATORS.

URL: <http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/imagepages/tryonimg.html>

What issues were these men rebelling against? Excessive taxes, dishonest officials, and illegal fees. Where was this money going? Into the pockets of local corrupt officials and to build the Royal Governor of North Carolina (William Tryon) a new and grand palace! ⁵ You can still visit his palace in New Bern, North Carolina shown below. I was there several years ago and took a tour. They discuss the Regulators, and asked if anyone was related to them – I was proud to say “I WAS.”

Essentially, the men of the North Carolina backcountry were being disproportionately taxed compared to the wealthier plantation owners in the low county. With a scarcity of the hard money required by tax officials, the taxes became an incredible burden, particularly in the areas where there were quite a few corrupt officials ⁶ - exactly where the Faulkenberrys lived.



Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

Before resorting to violence, the backcountry men of Anson, Rowan, Orange, and Mecklenburg Counties sent petitions to Governor Tryon hoping he would “fix the problem.” You can read the first petition at this address:

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/petition-from-regulators-of-north-carolina/>

This address goes to the one signed by our family (spelled Falconbery and Falconburg): <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hunt/archive/war/regulatr.txt>

During the Regulator Movement, two of the “elite” men who stood against the local men as representatives for the Royal government were Edmund Fanning (pictured on the right) and Samuel Spencer. Fanning was hated by the locals because he levied and collected the taxes and was evidently pretty arrogant about it. He was once found guilty of embezzling money but was fined only one cent per charge – big deal! Not much of an incentive to stop! The Regulators, in extreme anger, broke into his house, beat him up, and proceeded to take his house apart. Only the foundation was left in place. Fanning later moved to Canada and fought on the British side during the Revolutionary War. ⁷



<http://ncpedia.org/biography/fanning-edmund>

Because Samuel Spencer was Clerk of Court for Anson County, a position he paid 150 pounds to acquire, he too was involved with trying to stop the men rebelling against the local corrupt government. Spencer, to protect his own political interests and desire to be in a position to accumulate lots of land, had to support Fanning.⁸ Spencer knew the Faulkenberry men were Regulators. Evidently, there was not a lot of “good feelings” between the Faulkenberry men and Samuel Spencer as a more personal encounter would soon occur.

It is necessary to backtrack to another line of thought in order to understand the next confrontation with Samuel Spencer. It involved a Swedish man named Brewer (Broer) Sinnex.

Spelling of names appear as written in the historical records of Anson County, NC:

1750 – Brewer Sinexer received 134 acres on the south side of the Pee Dee River as a royal grant .⁹ (Same area as the Falkenbergs.)

1756 – Henry Falkenborough sold to Jacob Falkenborough 134 acres on the south side of the Pee Dee River having the exact dimensions and survey information as the Sinnex grant. Sennix did not sell the property to Henry but must have died suddenly without a will or heirs, and the Faulkenberrys believed he would have left it to them. ¹⁰

1757 – Jacob Falkenborough sold to Henry Faulkenborough 134 acres on the South side of the Pee Dee River with the exact dimensions as the 1750 grant. ¹¹

1759 – Henry Falkenburg, Sr. gave to Henry Falkenburg, Jr. the same 134 acres. ¹²

(Regulator movement occurred 1768 to 1771)

1770 – Because the surrounding land was being issued to Samuel Spencer, Henry and Jacob Falconberry request a resurvey of the 134 acres “patented to Brewer Sinexan.” This was probably an attempt to protect their rights to the land. ¹³

1770 – Isaac Falconberry issued a caveat against Samuel Spencer. ¹⁴

So what is a caveat? It is a formal notice filed with the courts to suspend a proceeding until the opposition has a hearing. Isaac Falconberry wanted to have his day in court before the land was given to Spencer.

What was going on? Evidently, Spencer was disputing the Faulkenberry (Falconberry) claim to the Sennix land and the caveat was an attempt to hash it out in the courts. During this time, empty or abandoned land could be claimed if settlers could prove they had been making improvements to the property at the time they were requesting a title.¹⁵ The Falkenberrys must have been hoping they could assume possession of Sennix's land. Most likely, the land was close by and Sennix had no direct descendants to claim it. Brewer Sinnex was most likely a second cousin.

In 1769, Samuel Spencer became a member of North Carolina General Assembly.¹⁶ At this point, he was in the middle of trying to help contain the Regulator Movement and had friends in the Royal Governor's office. He took advantage of the opportunity to increase his land holdings in Anson County. He began taking up unclaimed land around other holdings.¹⁷ He must have figured out that the Sennix property was being claimed by kin who were not direct heirs and he wanted it.

This map of North Carolina counties in 1760 shows that Anson and Rowan Counties had no specific western boundary. Our family was living on the frontier!



Lancaster County, SC
was just over the state
line.

URL: <http://usgwarchives.net/nc/ncmaps.html>

On March 31, 1771, Samuel Spencer sent a very long petition to the Governor of North Carolina. In this petition, Spencer stated that Falconbury had no clear title to the land “For Senix died Intestate without any Conveyance or Disposal of it in any Manner whatever, and without any Heir know of by any body in this country except one son, who was since drowned in Virginia....” ¹⁸

Spencer was given the land. Evidently, this was not the final confrontation between Spencer and the Falconberrys. Two undated, Anson County records from the Docket of the County Court ¹⁹ (probably from 1769 to 1771) are very interesting:

“Ordered that Isaac Falconberry be fined ten pounds for a Contempt offered to the Court

“Ordered that Isaac Falconberry give security in £ 200 and two securities in £ 100 each for his good behavior toward Samuel Spencer

Samuel Spencer provides an interesting side story to the issue of the Swedish man! Remember his name - Brewer Sennix – it will be important later!



<http://www.pinterest.com/charlsefawkes/1700s-mens-clothing/>

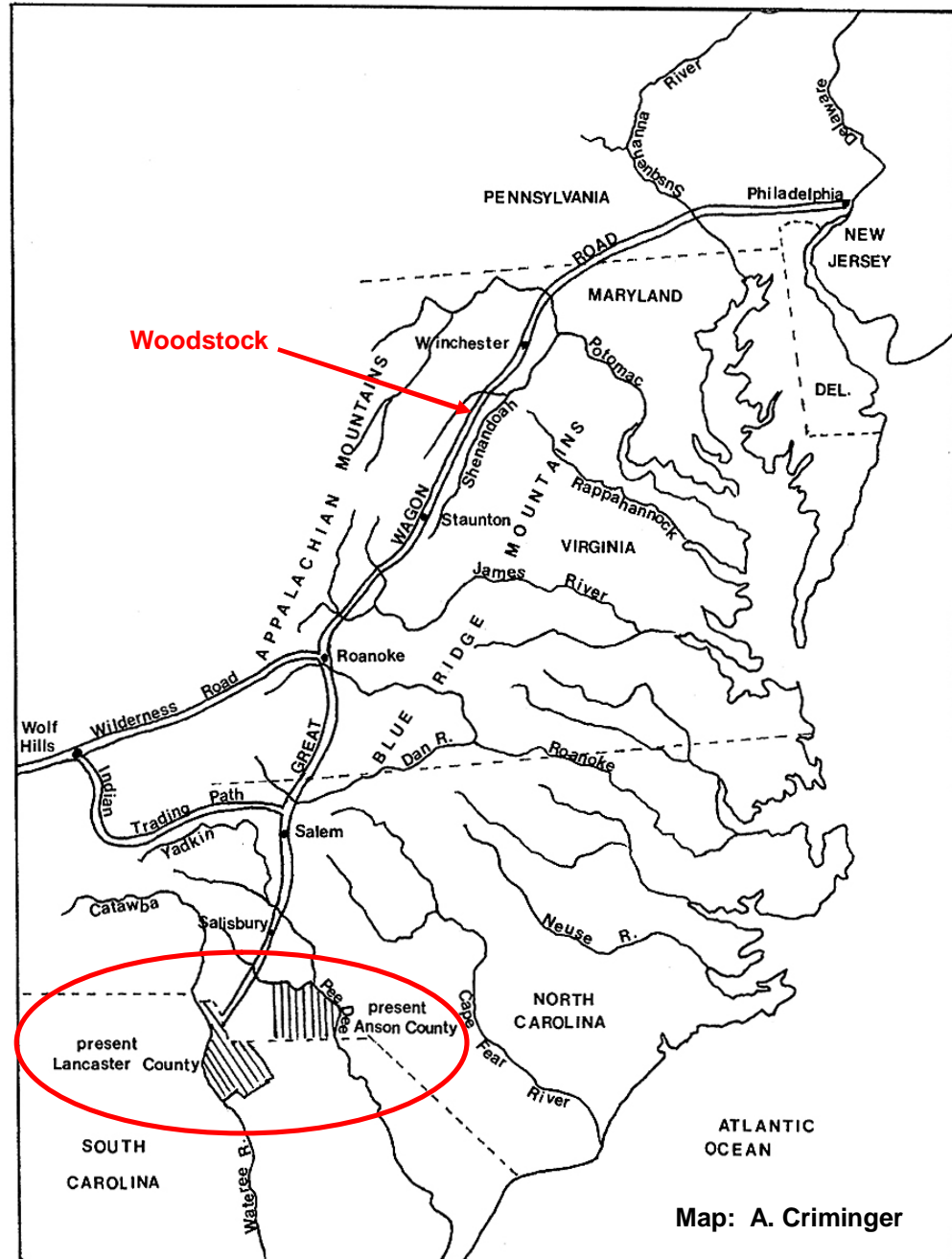
Typical clothing of a man on the frontier in the mid 1700s

Now let us continue following all the Faulkenburgs out of NC and SC.

If John Faulkenberry was born in Virginia, how did he end up in South Carolina?

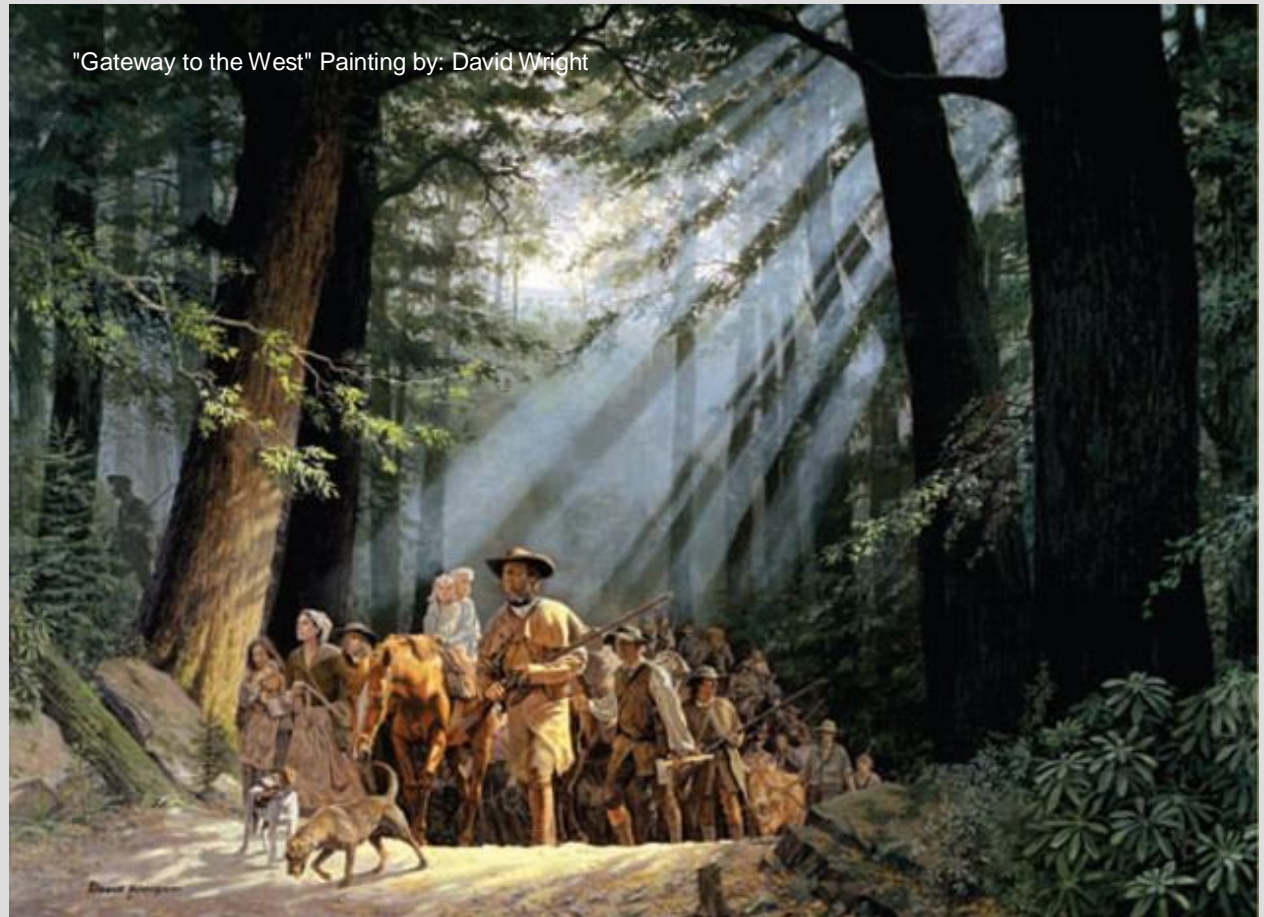
The most common route to the Carolina “backcountry” was the Great (Philadelphia) Wagon Road. It was originally the Great Warrior Path of the Iroquois used by Native Americans to travel north and south through the passes in the mountains.²⁰ About 1745, our family moved from the area just south of Woodstock, Virginia to the Carolinas.²¹ Some of the family settled in Anson County, North Carolina and others went further south to Lancaster County, South Carolina.

The Great Wagon Road originally started as an Indian Trail. It was the most often used route to the Carolinas from the northern colonies.



It must have been a grueling trip down the Old Wagon Road! Over 730 miles of misery on a trail not much wider than one of our well worn hiking trails today. What could make families be willing to move from an area just getting settled into the even more unsettled areas of North and South Carolina?

Other than the names of three brothers traveling together, we have very little knowledge of the other family members with them. There would surely have been wives and children but women of the time were rarely mentioned in legal records other than wills. We do know that people moved, not only with their immediate family, but with in-laws, friends, and anyone else going in their same direction.



Quite a few of the names appearing in the Carolina records are men who can be tracked back to Virginia with the Falkenbergs. Also, land they purchased in the Carolinas was purchased with "Virginia money." During colonial times, colonies often printed their own money, and when selling out to move to the Carolinas, they would have been paid in the local Virginia currency.



The old Wagon Road today

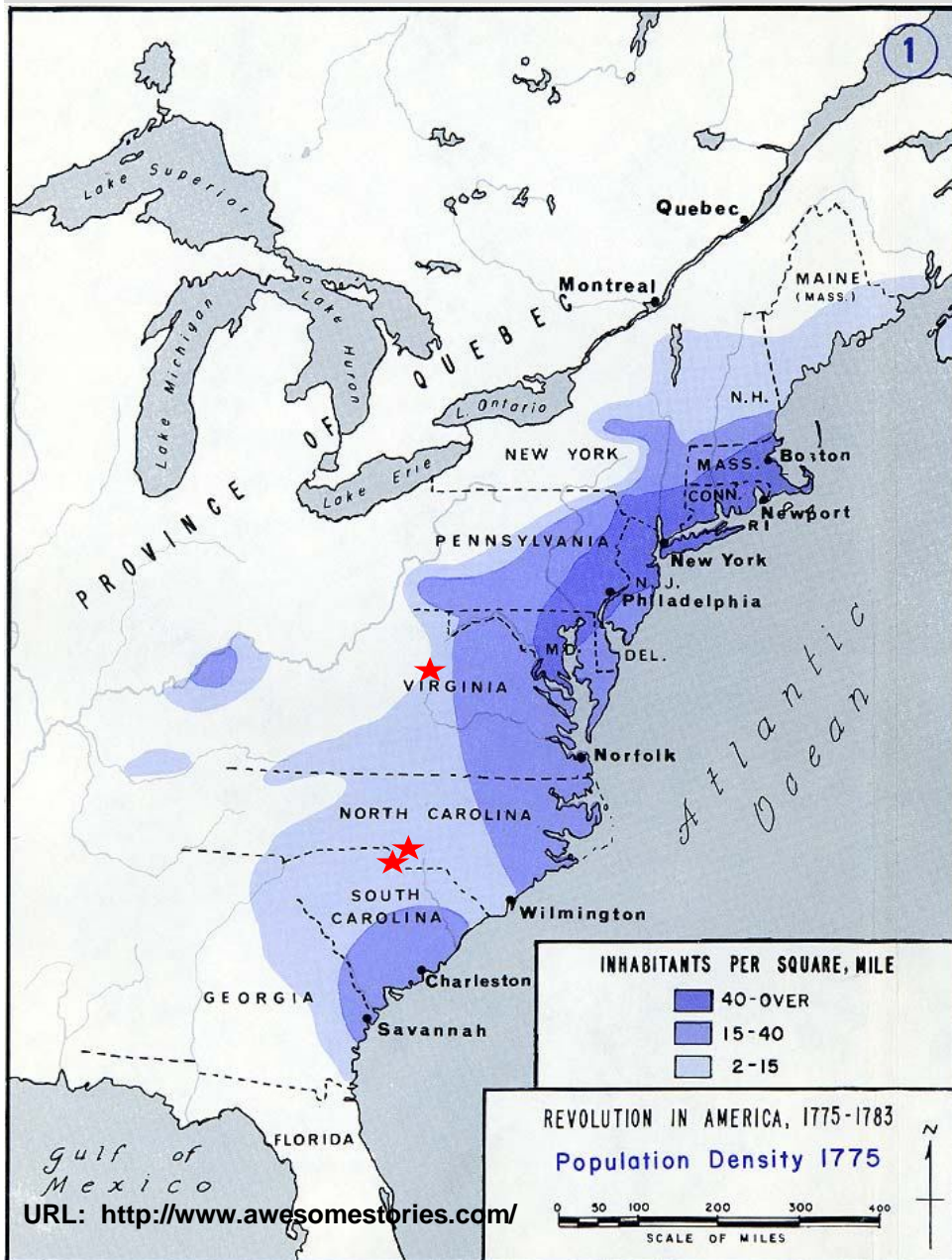
According to a *Winston-Salem Journal* article posted August 4/5, 2013, these two photos are thought to show remnants of the Wagon Road near Rural Hall, NC.

Posted: Sunday, August 4, 2013 12:00 am | Updated: 12:06 pm, Mon Aug 5, 2013. Photos by David Rolfe.

An 1802 deed even mentions a rock along the wagon road. Researchers today believe the deed was referring to the white rock shown above.²²



When were the Falkenbergs living in Virginia?



They lived there from 1735 to 1745. Stop and give this a little thought! The Revolutionary War was still 40 years in the future. James Oglethorpe had landed at Yamacraw Bluff to establish the colony of Georgia only two years before. The map shown here is an estimate of the population density at the time of the Revolutionary War. It was much lower 30 to 40 years before, especially in the backcountry. By the time of the French and Indian War (1754-1763), our family had moved deeper into the wilderness, not once, but twice! In 1735 they moved from the northern colonies to Virginia and then into the Carolinas in 1745 or 1746. Our ancestors were amazingly brave and adventuresome people!

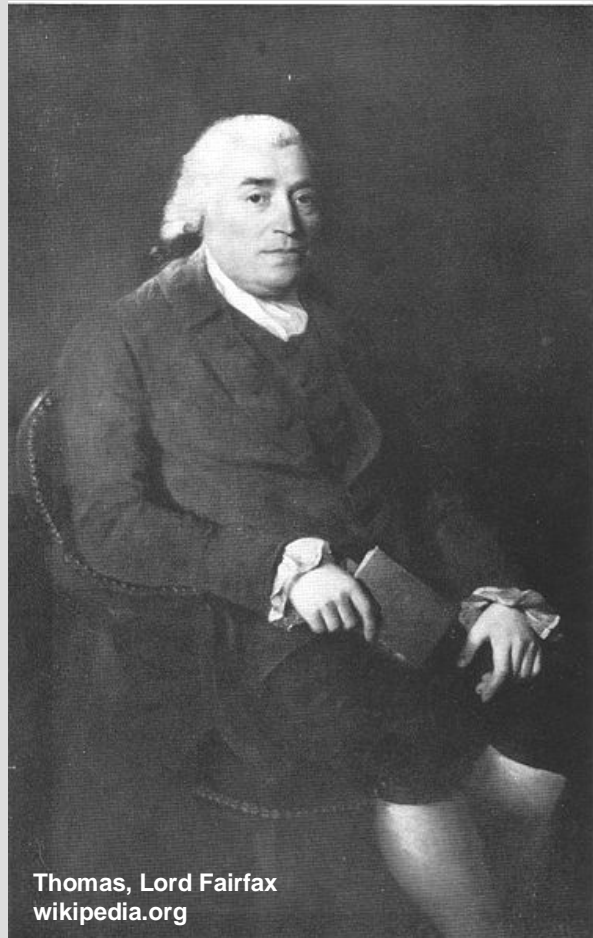
Stars indicate locations where they lived in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

What made them leave Virginia? Questionable title to the land they were working hard to settle!

One would think that a ten year stay in the backcountry of Virginia would leave few documents. Think again! Though we do not have any “recorded” deeds or wills, we have located some pretty amazing things. To understand the events that precipitated abandoning their work in settling the Virginia backcountry, we need to look at the events from most distant to most recent – opposite of what we have done so far.

1649 – King Charles II of England, at 19, was forced into exile in Europe by Oliver Cromwell’s defeat of his father, Charles I. While in exile, Charles II granted to 7 men all the land lying between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers in his colony of Virginia as a “bribe” to keep their support for his rights to the throne of England. No one had ever visited there or even knew anything about this land! Through various deals made between the seven men and inheritances, by 1719, the entire grant was in the possession of Thomas Fairfax, 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron. ²³





Thomas, Lord Fairfax
wikipedia.org

Late 1720s – As men began exploring down the Warrior Trail (later the Philadelphia Wagon Road), men looking to make a mark for themselves began requesting large land grants from the Royal Governor of Virginia for speculation. ²⁴

1730 – John Van Meter received 10,000 acres with an additional 20,000 acres if he could get 20 families to settle within 2 years. This grant was from the Governor of Virginia with the unspoken promise that these backcountry grants would provide a buffer between the Native Americans and the coastal plantation society. ²⁵

1731 – A different group headed by Jost Hite received rights to 100,000 acres with a requirement of settling 100 families within five years. If Hite could not get the families, they could lose the rights to the 100,000 acres. ²⁶

1734-35 – Jost Hite and company send advertisements to other colonies trying to get the 100 families to come to Virginia. ²⁷

1735 – Fairfax arrives in Virginia to “check” on his property only to find out that the Royal Governor of Virginia had been inadvertently “giving” it away. ²⁸

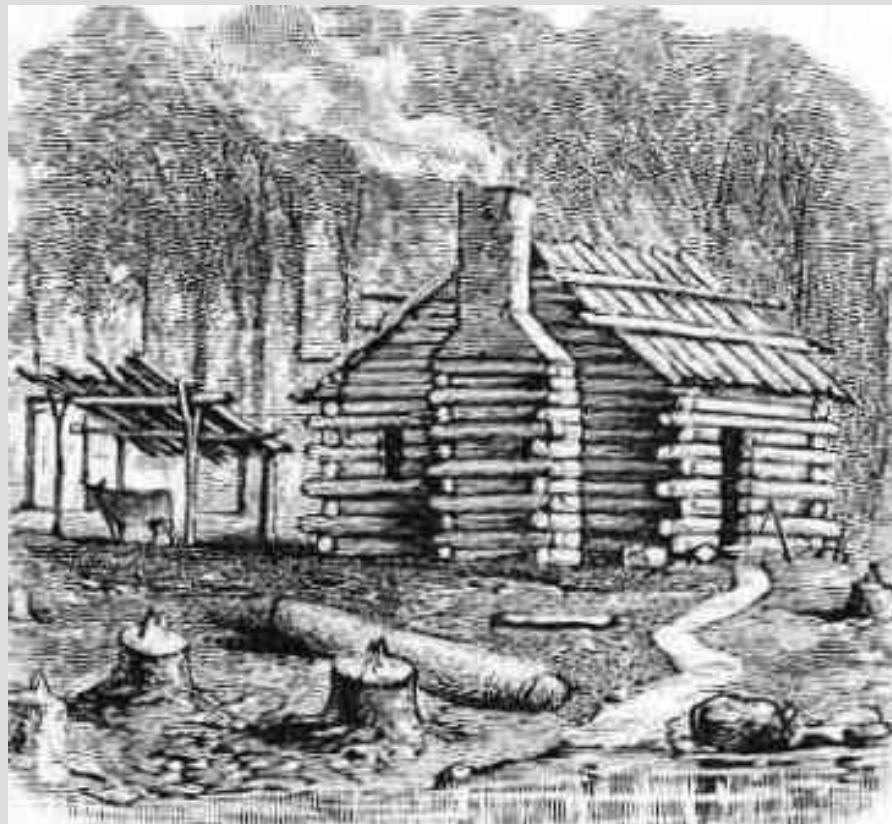
1736 – Fairfax issued a caveat (there’s that word again) against Hite and his partners. ²⁹

1736 – Hite was required to list the head of families living on the 100,000 acres to determine if he has the 100 families. Only 49 families were counted but the list included Andrew, Jacob, and Henry Falkenberg. ³⁰

1745/46 – Because all the land in the area was being disputed, the Council of Virginia had to determine an official location for the “Fairfax Line” to designate the area owned by Lord Fairfax. The line was surveyed. ³¹ The property locations of all three Falkenberg men fell within the Fairfax property. They would now be involved in a legal battle for their land!

1745 – Andrew, Jacob, and Henry had enough, got on the Wagon Road they were helping to build and maintain and left for the Carolinas.

Strangely enough, because Lord Fairfax remained in Virginia from 1735 until his death in 1781, his property was not seized in 1776 as “British.” His descendants kept the land. In fact, the last court case concerning the disputes between the settlers and Fairfax continued until 1787! ³²



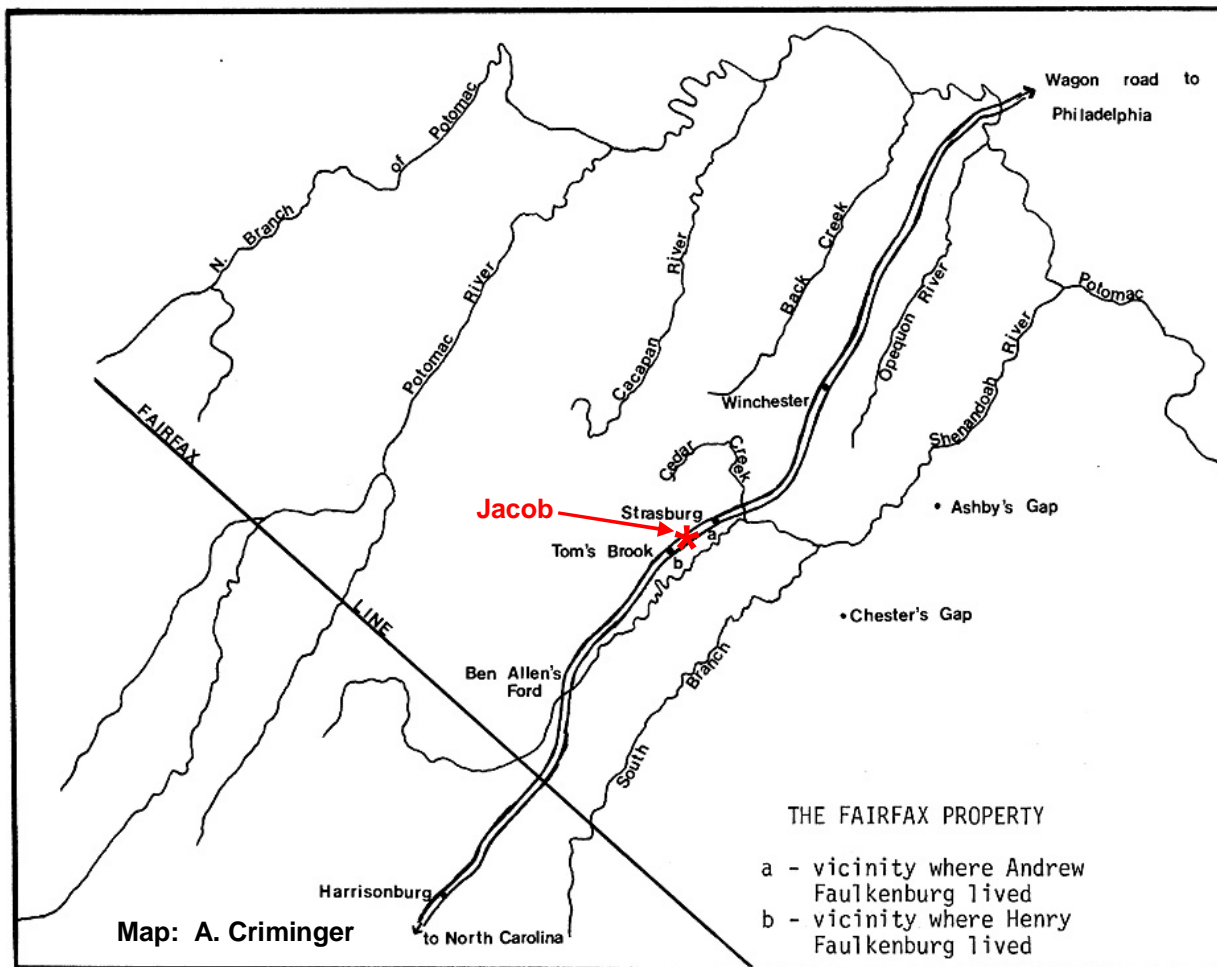
<http://www.landofthebrave.info/images/log-cabin.jpg>

Typical backcountry homestead

While in Virginia, where did Andrew, Jacob and Henry Falkenberg live?

Before publishing the Fortenberry book in 1984, we felt we had located where Andrew and Henry lived based on road petitions. Later, Wanda found a record showing that Jacob Falkenberg (our direct ancestor) lived in an area called the “Narrow Passage.”³³

New evidence shows all three men lived at Narrow Passage. Remember Narrow Passage, it will come up again.



Roads were critical to people on the frontier; therefore, men petitioned for the construction of roads. The courts named men to help oversee the construction and maintenance of these new roads. Six Virginia records specifically named the Falkenberg men in these petitions and court orders. The last one was dated 1745 which is the year they most likely left the area.³⁴

Record of birth for Jacob's son, John Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church

The only record related to any Falkenberg birth in Virginia was at Tinkling Spring Church which was established in 1740. It was the second church organized by the inhabitants of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. In a compilation of the early church records is a reference to Jacob Fulkenburgh having his son, John, christened on October 19, 1740. His actual date of birth is unknown and cannot be determined by his christening date, nor is his mother's name given.³⁵ On the frontier, christenings often had to wait until a traveling preacher was in the area. Most likely, quite a few other relatives were born during this time but went unrecorded. We have lots of Falkenberg men in North Carolina and South Carolina who would have been born during this 10 year period.



The church, built two years after John's baptism, was a log structure built most likely over a dirt floor.³⁶ Today it is hard for us to imagine what daily life was like for our colonial ancestors. We take our lives so much for granted. Imagine the effort it took to do the simplest of things.

Looking further back in our family history, where do we go from here?

We have now worked our way back to the mid 1730s. To reach the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, the usual route was down the Philadelphia Wagon Road. Therefore, research would naturally move to the colonies further north. Looking for Andrew, Jacob or Henry Falkenberg in the records uncovered nothing definitive. When a block like this occurs, one looks for unusual names connected to the family. This takes us back to Brewer (Broer) Sinnex! We will now move back from the Brewer Sinnex (gen 4) that appeared in North Carolina in 1750 to find an earlier connection with our Falkenberg family. Notice the “gen 4” indicating a generation – it should help you follow the family back to our connection!



Encounter between the native Lenape Indians
and the colonists of New Sweden

Because the Sinnex family was from Finland ³⁷, they used a patronymic system of naming. (Example: John Isaacson would be the son of Isaac and his son Isaac would appear in the records as Isaac Johnson.) This system of naming makes it very difficult to follow a family through the generations. Thankfully, an expert in the history of New Sweden and the Swedish/Finnish colonists, Peter Craig, spent most of his life researching and writing about these people!

The Broer Sinnex (gen 4) who received a land grant in North Carolina in 1750 and died by 1756 was born in 1703 in the area of Delaware and New Jersey known as New Sweden. He was the son of James Sinnex (gen 3). ³⁸

James Sinnex (gen 3) was born about 1678 and died in 1709.³⁹ By the early 1700s, the English influences in the colonies forced the Swedes and Finns into using a standard family surname.

James Sinnex (gen 3) was the son of Broer Sinnexson (gen 2). Broer Sinnexson (gen 2) was born about 1650 and died in 1708 (one year before his son James died). He, like many of his family, belonged to the Holy Trinity Church, Wilmington, Delaware. The church is now known as Old Swedes. By his request, Broer Sinnexson was buried under his pew inside the original church.⁴⁰

Broer Sinnexson (gen 2) was the son of Sinnick Broer (gen 1), the immigrant from Finland. Notice the switch to the patronymic name system.⁴¹



<http://community.fortunecity.ws/millennium/savannah/252/chest.jpg>

Sinnick Broer (gen 1) immigrated from Finland in 1656 on the Mercurius with his wife, a daughter, and two sons. It is estimated that he was probably born about 1630.⁴²

The chest shown here came on the ship from Finland in 1656 with Sinnick Broer. It is part of an exhibit at the American Swedish Historical Museum located in Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park in South Philadelphia.⁴³ Since he was my 8 great grandfather, it is something I plan to see one day!

So what do these men have to do with the our family?



<http://i821.photobucket.com/albums/zz139/Ojibwa/NewNetherlandmap-1.png>

New Sweden (blue) and New Netherlands (purple)
as relative to current state boundaries.

In 1671, a man later known as Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg was living at Deer Point with Sinnick Broer. Deer Point was land within the Swedish settlements on the Delaware side of the Delaware River. ⁴⁴ Today, Deer Point is part of the Russell Peterson Wildlife Refuge just south of Wilmington, Delaware. The area historically called New Sweden now falls within parts of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

On October 12, 1672, Sinnick Broer's three adult children named as his heirs sold part of his estate. According to the historian, Peter Craig, *"The first name listed on this sale was written as "Henry Jackson," a poor translation of Sinnick Broer's daughter's husband, who was generally known as Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg."* ⁴⁵



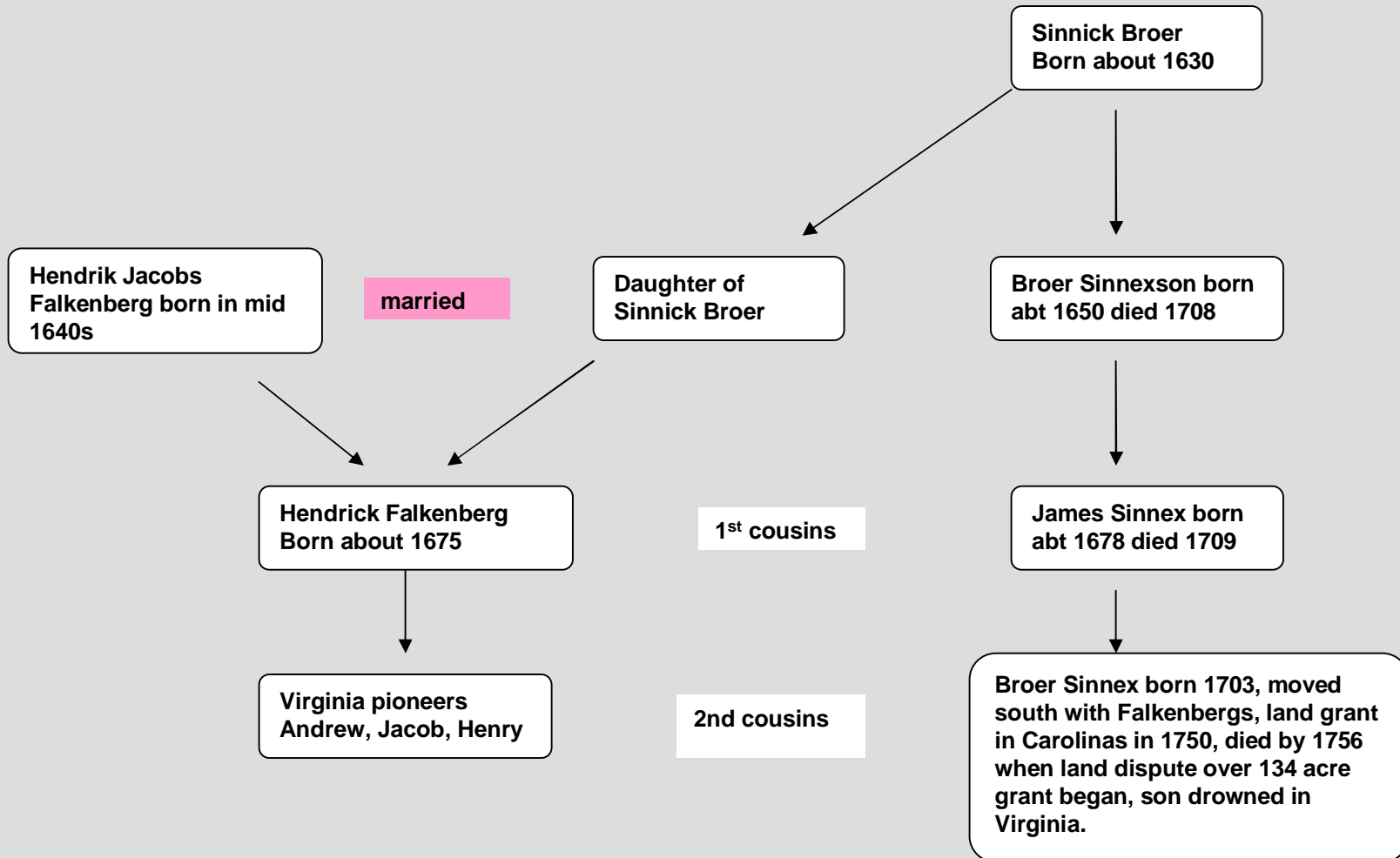
With this discovery, it is inferred that Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg was most likely from Finland or Sweden. To make it even more likely, there is a town on the west coast of Sweden called Falkenberg! This scenario was looking good.

Today, there is a huge amount known about Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg – but nothing irrefutable about his parents or where he was from.

Inferences from the records put Hendrick's birth about the mid 1640s. We know that he was married and living with Sennick Broer (his father-in-law) in 1671. Very little is known about his marriage with Sennick Broer's daughter but we know they had one son born about 1675 named Hendrick (Henry).⁴⁶ Almost nothing is known about Henry Falkenberg, the son of Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg. He appears in three court records in Cecil County, Maryland between 1710 and 1716 and the information in those records connect him to important people that substantiate the connection, but too involved to explain here.

Here is the important issue from all this – there is no way that “happenstance” placed the Falkenberg and Sennix families together in New Sweden in the 1670s, Virginia in the late 1730s, and North Carolina in the late 1750s! The names are too unusual for that to happen serendipitously over a period of about 100 years, especially with the North Carolina court records previously mentioned wherein the Falkenbergs assumed they could take possession of Brewer Sinnex's 134 acres as his next of kin in North Carolina.

**Need visual help understanding all this?
Here is a diagram of the relationship between the
Falkenberg and Sinnex families.**





Brother's Son,


I desire thee to be plain and fair with all both
Indians and *Christians*, as I have been. I am very
weak, otherwise I would have spoken more ; and
in Testimony of the *Truth* of this, I have here-
unto set my Hand in the presence of us,

Witneffes, An imitation of the *Indian Marks*,

Thomas Budd,
Sarah Biddle,
Mary Cripps,
Anne Browne,
Jane Noble.

 The Mark of *Ockanickon*,
King, now deceased.

 The Mark of *Jakhurfœ*, the
intended King.

 The Mark of *Matollionequay*,
Wife to *Ockanickon* the
Old King.

 The Mark of *Nemooponent*,
a Prince.

 The Mark of *Tellinggreifœ*,
the *Indian Doctor*.

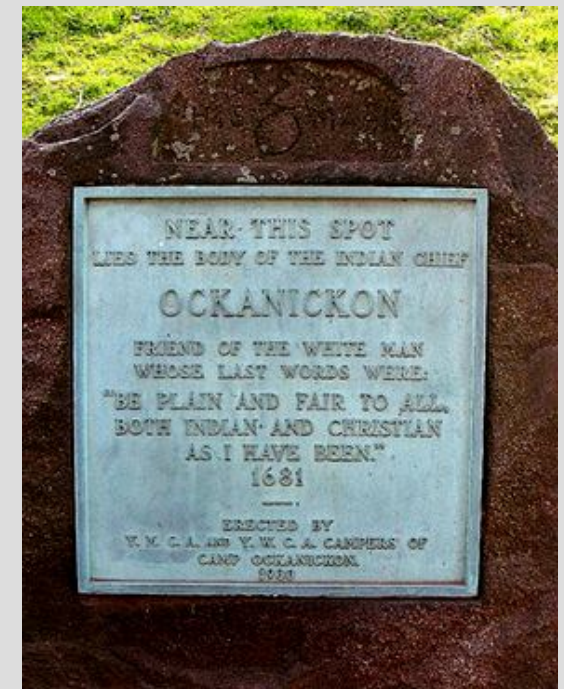
★ *Henry Jacobs Falckinburs*,³ Interpreter.

F I N I S.

★ ³ This name appears as *Falekinbery* in *Good Order*.

Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg must have been an adventuresome person, even for his time! We do know he was a well known and respected interpreter for the Native Americans, especially the Lenape Indians. ⁴⁸ In order to become fluent and trusted, he must have spent quite a bit of time with the Lenape – well beyond just trading. In 1680, he was the interpreter for the final instructions given by Chief Ockanickon of the Lenape tribe to his people. ⁴⁹

The final page of his instructions printed in 1682 in London is shown here along with a plaque at the Quaker Burying Grounds in Burlington, New Jersey.



Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg is mentioned several times in the colonial records of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. His translating services were even used by William Penn.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Province_of_Pennsylvania

The Treaty of Penn with the Indians by Benjamin West

**Though some of the information is now thought to be wrong, please read his article on Wikipedia at this address. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hendrick_Jacobs_Falkenberg
Our Fortenberry book is even used as a reference!**

Recently, two new pieces of evidence now tells us that we must merge the story of Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg (the Indian interpreter) and his Boer Sinex connection with a man from the Netherlands!

As my family members may remember from the results of Raymond's DNA, he and other Fortenberry, Faulkenberry, Falkenberg men matched the DNA of a man born about 1540 in the Netherlands. He name was Andries Van Valkenberg and his grandson, Lambert Van Valkenberg immigrated to a colony called New Netherland (later New York). This means the DNA tested (kit B1189) was from a man living today who gave Andries Van Valkenberg as his most distant direct line. This would be 480 years ago!

To visit the DNA site, go to

<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/fortenberrydna/default.aspx?section=ycolorized>

Raymond is kit 306703.

Raymond would be 12 generations removed from Andries Van Valkenberg. The geneticists at Family Tree DNA calculate a 97.21% probability of a shared common ancestor. Genetically, that is a sure thing.

In comparing Y-DNA 37 marker results, the probability that Colonel David Van Valkenburg and Raymond Clyde Fortenberry shared a common ancestor within the last...

COMPARISON CHART

Generations	Percentage
4	57.86%
8	88.33%
12	97.21%
16	99.38%
20	99.87%
24	99.97%

So who are these Van Valkenbergs of New York?

Lambert Van Valkenberg was born about 1614 in the town of Valkenberg just east of Maastricht in the Province of Limburg, Netherlands. ⁵⁰ This area is the southeastern most territory of the Netherlands, today bordering Germany and Belgium.



He married Annetie Jacobs in 1642 before moving to the Dutch West India Company's political center at New Amsterdam (now New York City). From records in New Amsterdam, it appears that Lambert and Annetie must have arrived in the new world in 1643. ⁵¹ There were quite a few ships that carried passengers from the Netherlands but usually only the names of the ships and their captains were ever listed.



By looking at the previous map, the picture below, and Google Earth, one can see that Lambert Van Valkenberg's property (noted by red star) was between the fort and the beach in front of where the Hudson and East Rivers join. An interesting fact has been discovered about Van Valkenberg's neighbor named Jan Evertsz Bout (green area on previous map just above his). He too was a well known Indian interpreter.⁵² My conjecture: Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg may have developed his desire to befriend and interpret for Native Americans from his neighbor while living just outside the fort at New Amsterdam. Not very many men were ever designated as "Indian interpreters."

But this was not the first piece of property owned by Lambert in what would become New York City. In 1644, soon after arriving, he purchased property from a Jan Jacobson. Researchers think Lambert may have turned this land over to the Dutch West India Company since no record of a sale has been found.⁵³



The last property Lambert Van Valkenberg owned in New Amsterdam before moving upriver to Fort Orange was once again granted to him by Peter Stuyvesant and occurred on May 14, 1649. Lambert sold this land to Claes Martensen who later took the last name of the village where he was born and thereafter was called Claes Martensen van Rosenvelt. Yes, the ancestor of the Roosevelt family. Theodore Roosevelt was born less than half a mile from that property! ⁵⁴

This 48 acres encompassed some real estate that would be nice to own now! In our world today, it includes land on the west side of Lexington Avenue between 29th and 35th Streets and extended westward across Park and Madison Avenues beyond Fifth Avenue. In 1931, the Empire State Building was built on 5th Avenue between 33rd and 34th Streets. ⁵⁵ Pretty amazing.

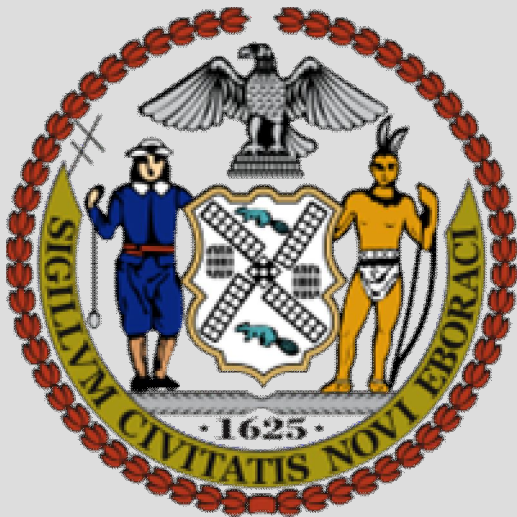


What was the purpose of the Dutch West India Company?

Unlike the Swedish and English immigrants, the sole reason the Netherlands wanted to have a presence in the area was for fur! Nearly everyone coming from the Netherlands worked in some capacity for the Dutch West India Company. In the early 1600s, most furs were imported into western Europe from Russia. Due to a gradual decrease in volume, the members of the Dutch West India Company found they could make huge profits by trading with the Native Americans for furs and shipping them back to Europe.⁵⁶ The seal representing the colony in 1623 (on the right) even had a beaver on it.



<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/chf/images/hudsonelemseal.gif>



Today's official seal for New York City honors the part the Dutch and Native Americans played in history of New York. Notice the Dutch man, Native American, two beavers, and a Dutch windmill!

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/3/39/Seal_of_New_York_City.svg/200px-Seal_of_New_York_City.svg.png

About 1652, Lambert moved his family up the Hudson River to Beverwyck in the Fort Orange area,⁵⁷ later renamed Albany by the British. Look again at this map on the left seen on a previous slide. Notice the proximity of New Sweden and New Netherland.



<http://i821.photobucket.com/albums/zz139/Ojibwa/NewNetherlandmap-1.png>

New Sweden (blue) and New Netherlands (purple) as relative to current state boundaries.

Would Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg have roamed that far? Definitely. Records concerning Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg show him in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, and New Jersey particularly in the areas around Fort Casmir and Fort Nassau which were both Dutch forts.



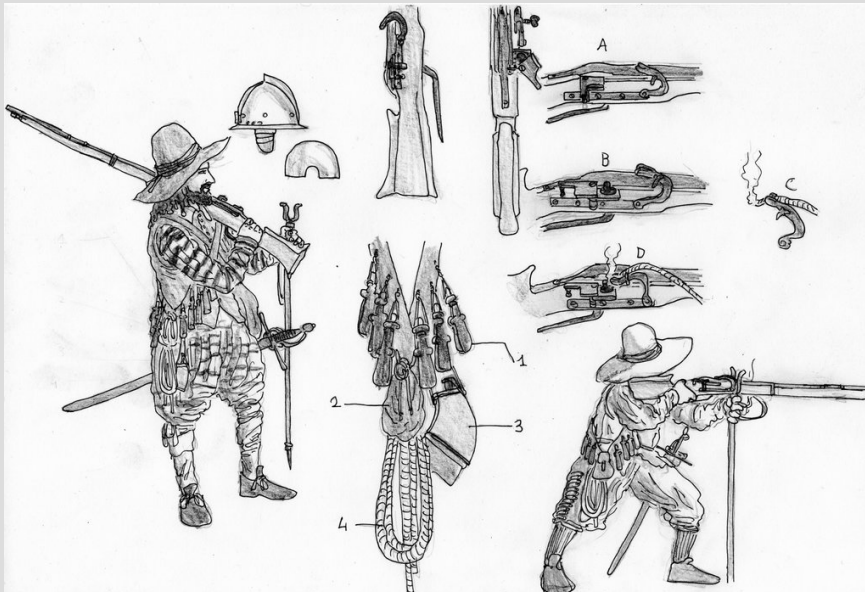
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/8b/Nieuw_Nederland.png/280px-Nieuw_Nederland.png

Once in Fort Orange, Lambert Van Valkenberg begins to appear in court records quite frequently. This earliest one dates from March 7, 1652. He sometimes appears in court cases as a “sergeant of the burgher guard” giving testimony in disputes.⁵⁸



http://www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/files/5313/5240/4507/Fort_Orange.jpg

Fort Orange and Beverwyck were placed at the furthest navigable point up the Hudson River.



The burgher guard was a local military force responsible for the security of the Dutch settlements. They were not paid soldiers but part of the community and had to provide their own longarms (very long rifles), swords, and other accoutrements.⁵⁹

http://fc04.deviantart.net/fs70/i/2013/056/1/8/matchlock_musketeer_thirty_years_war_1618_1648_by_fritzvicari-d5w6hjn.jpg

The Rattle Watch

On July 6, 1659, Lambert Van Valkenberg and another man were chosen from the burgher guard to serve a one year term as the rattle watch for Fort Orange and Beverwyck. They were to be paid 1100 guilders in seawan (unstrung wampum) and 100 guilders in beavers. ⁶⁰

The Dutch colonists use of the Rattle Watch was the first recognized police force in the colonies! ⁶¹ They carried a wooden rattle similar to the one below. Why a rattle? The whistle had not yet been invented. They would sound the rattle (which everyone recognized) to warn people of danger or fire. When hearing the rattle, citizens were supposed to quickly assemble. The rattle watch was required to patrol the streets from 9:00pm to sunrise and were given specific orders which included the ability to use any necessary force if the criminal resisted arrest. ⁶²



The position was probably not an easy one. The idea of wandering the unlit streets of a village in all kinds of weather night after night must have been daunting.



<http://www.stripes.com/military-life/travel/valkenburg-dutch-town-offers-plenty-to-explore-1.22635#>

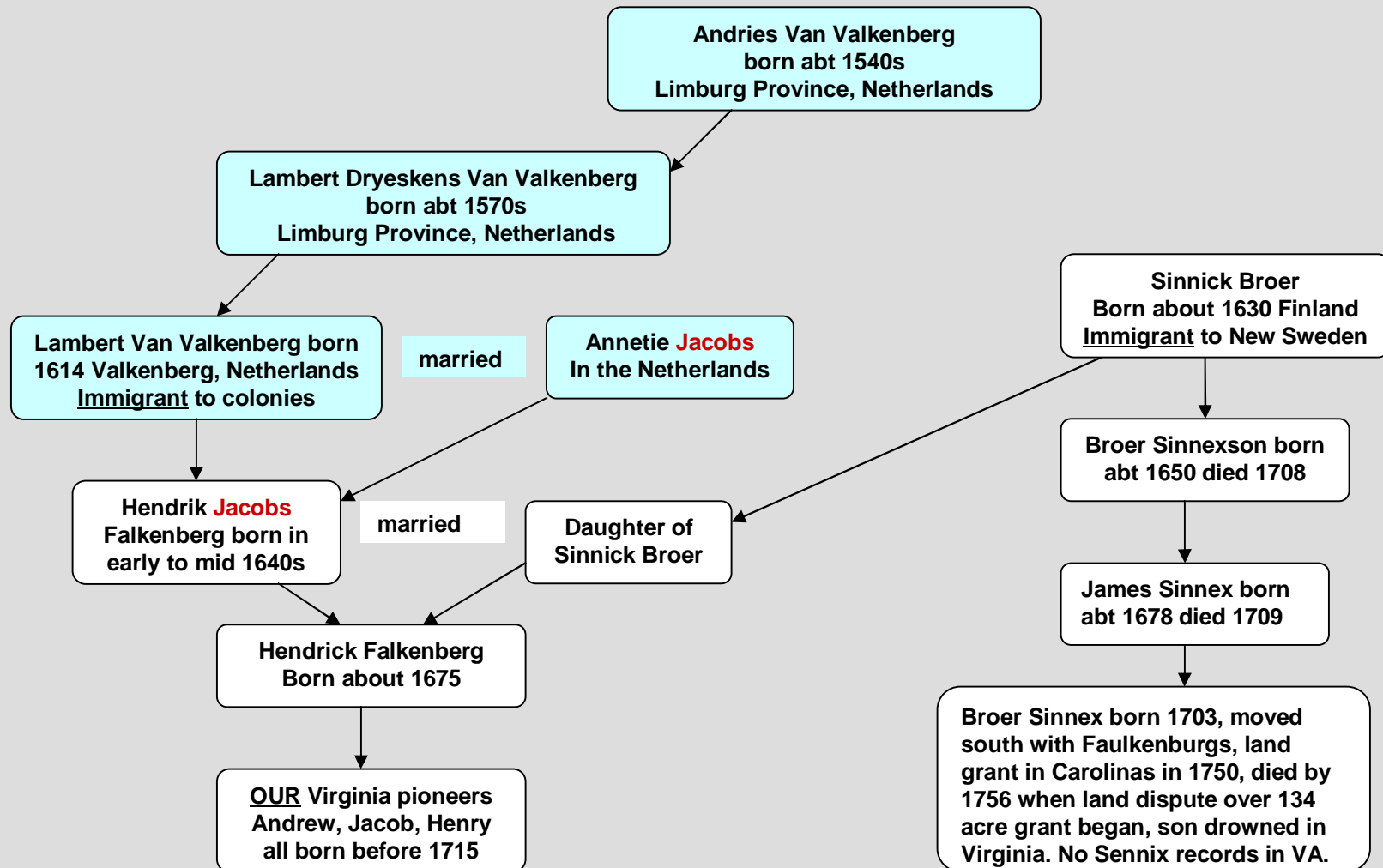
Valkenberg Castle, built in the 14th century, third in that location, was destroyed in 1672 during the Franco-Dutch War.

Lambert Dryeskens Van Valkenberg was the son of Andries Van Valkenberg who was born about 1540 and died in 1609 In Millen. ⁶⁴ So far, his father has not been determined and little is known about these two men.

For those of you wishing to learn more about the Van Valkenberg family, there is a National Association of the Van Valkenberg Family website. There are 48 Falkenburys listed but no Fortenberrys. Web address: <http://www.navvf.org/>

Lambert Van Valkenberg was the son of Lambert Dryeskens Van Valkenberg who was born in Millen, Limburg Province, Netherlands most likely between 1560-70. Millen is a very small village about 2 miles south of Valkenberg. Lambert Dryeskens Van Valkenberg married a woman named Maria about 1595. She died on October 20, 1650 in Millen, Limburg, Netherlands. ⁶³ The family did not own the castle connected with the village; the Van in the name means “of” or “from.”

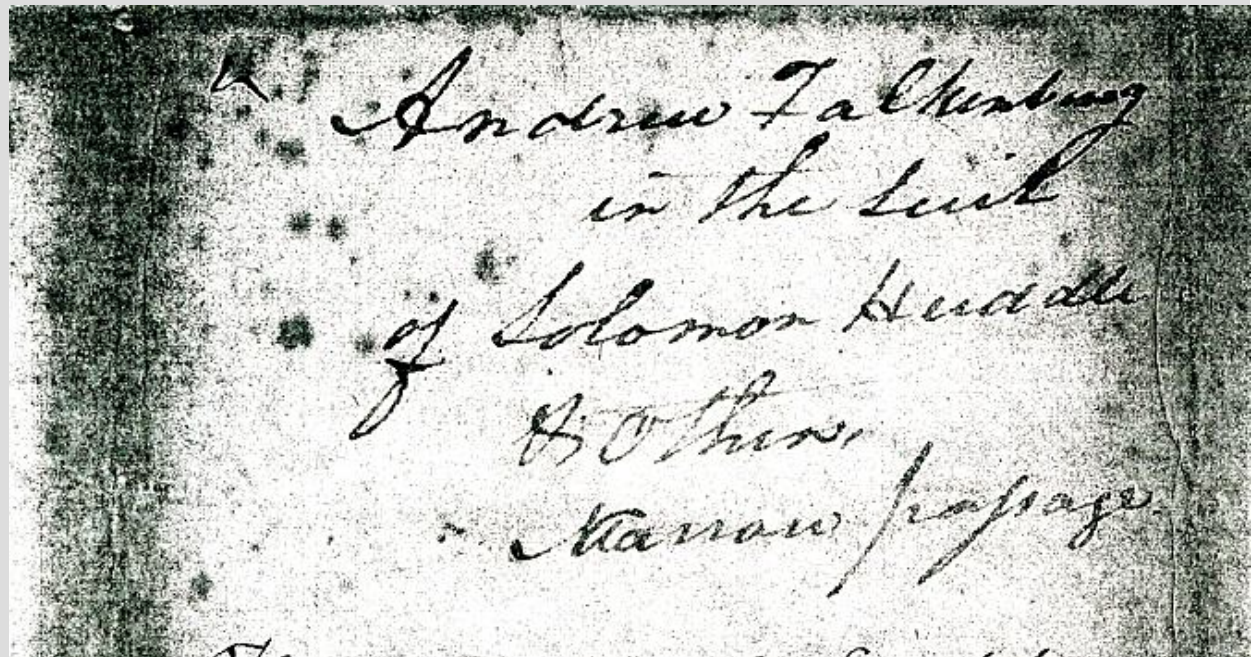
Need visual help understanding all this?
A diagram of the probable relationship between the
Van Valkenberg and Falkenberry/Fortenberry families added to the
Sennix connection.



Our second evidence comes from a document I located last year (2013) dated February 10, 1787. To give this date some historical perspective, that was the year the United States Constitution was ratified.

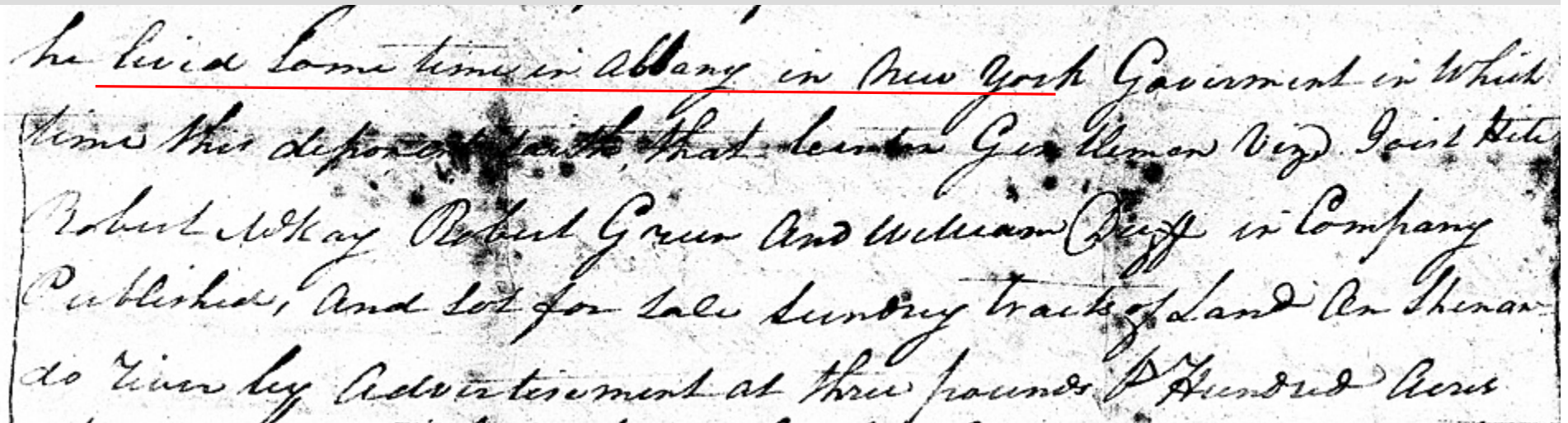
When researching in the 1970s and 1980s, many hours were spent in the Virginia, North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware archives looking for documents under every imaginable spelling of our name. Who would have thought we should have been looking in Kentucky! As it turns out, a privately supported historical society, The Filson Historical Society located in Louisville, holds many, many documents related to the lawsuits concerning the Fairfax land in Virginia. Within a group of papers called the Clark-Hite Papers rests a document that is amazing! The lawyers trying to settle the last of the lawsuits concerning the rightful ownership of the land in Virginia actually sent someone to North Carolina to take a deposition.

The lawyers located Andrew Falkenberg (in his mid 70s) living in Burke County, North Carolina, and they traveled there to ask him specific questions about events related to the Virginia land. To the right is part of the top, outside of the folded document. It reads – Andrew Falkenberg in the Suit of Solomon Huddle & others Narrow Passage ⁶⁵



Note: The strange looking script “P” in the middle of Passage was how a double S was written.

Let's look at two small but important parts of this document.



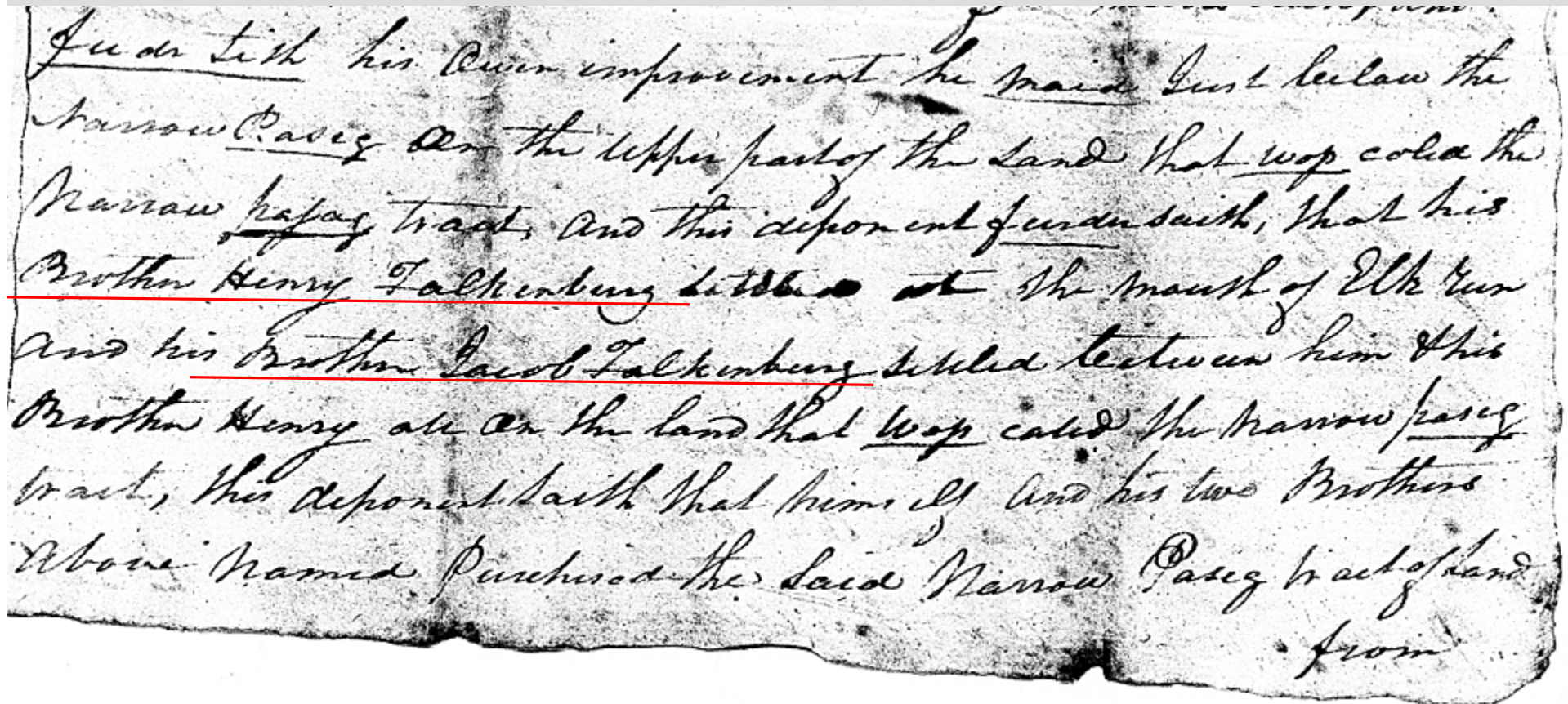
he lived some time in Albany in New York Government in which
time the deponent saith that certon Gentlemen viz Joist Hite
Robert McKay Robert Green and William Duff in Company
Published, And let for sale sundry tracts of Land on Shenan-
do river by Advertisement at three pounds p Hundred Acres

Andrew Falkenburg said on his oath that “he lived some time in Albany in New York Government in which time the deponent saith that certon Gentlemen viz Joist Hite Robert McKay Robert Green and William Duff in company Published and let for sale Sundry tracts of Land on Shenando river by Advertisement at three pounds p Hundred Acres.. ⁶⁶

Why is this document so important?

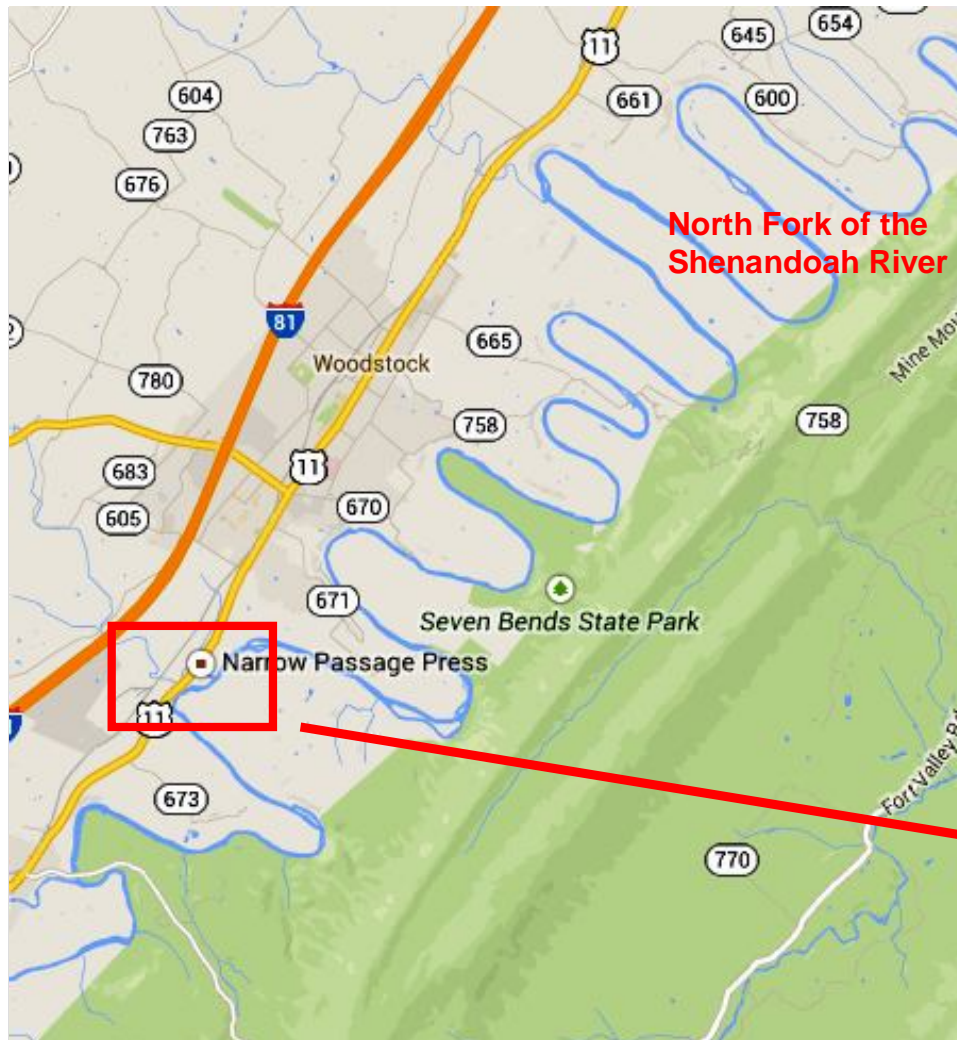
In combination with the DNA results, this document indicates that the Falkenbergs that lived in Virginia and later the Carolinas were most likely not from Sweden or Finland. Albany is where the Van Valkenberg family lived. It is important that Andrew said he “lived some time in Albany,” indicating he was not born there. If someone were questioning a person and they mentioned an important location relative to the discussion, it would have been much easier just to say “I was born in Albany” not lived there for a time. The wording leads one to the idea that he was born elsewhere and was in the Albany area for a while. Without a doubt, this document proves how our family heard about and later moved to Virginia.

Under oath, Andrew continued with his deposition: “fudr sith his own improvement he maid just below the Narrow Pasag on the upper part of the land that wass called the Narrow Passag tracts and this deponent funder saith that his Brother Henry Falkenburg settled at the mouth of Elk Run and his Brother Jacob Falkenburg settled between him and his brother Henry all on the land that wass called the Narrow Passag tract, this deponent Saith that himself and his two Brothers above named Purchased the Said Narrow Paseg tract of land from ... (on the next page it says Joist Hite,) ⁶⁷

A photograph of a piece of aged, yellowed paper with handwritten text in cursive. The text is a deposition, and several names and locations are underlined in red ink. The handwriting is somewhat faded and the paper has irregular edges.

Fudr sith his own improvement he maid just below the
Narrow Paseg on the upper part of the land that wop colia the
Narrow pasag tract, and this deponent funder saith, that his
Brother Henry Falkenburg ~~settled~~ at the mouth of Elk Run
and his Brother Jacob Falkenburg settled between him & his
Brother Henry all on the land that wop colia the narrow pasag
tract, this deponent saith that himself and his two Brothers
above named Purchased the Said Narrow Paseg tract of land
from

From this part of the document, we now know without a doubt all three men in Virginia were brothers and they ALL lived in the area of the Narrow Passage.



Some of the petitions concerning road upkeep indicate that the Falkenbergs' land at Narrow Passage was very close to the Wagon Road. Unlike the Wagon Road in North Carolina, the Virginia section is still in use as a road! Today, the road they helped build and maintain while living in Virginia is US 11 and is called the Old Valley Pike. Andrew, Jacob, and Henry Falkenberg lived just south of Woodstock, Virginia in an area still named Narrow Passage.

(Google maps)



In conclusion, because of the DNA results and Andrew Faulkenburg's deposition, the answer to the original question –

Dutch!

“We are all the product of things we've never seen and people we never met. In fact, if just one little detail had been changed in their lives, we may not even exist!”

— Melanie Johnston

A personal note from the author: Of course, we are a unique mixture of all our ancestors. For us Baby Boomers, if you calculate back twelve generations to Andries Van Valkenberg born in the early 1500s, we have 4095 additional direct grandparents! But the line following our surname is often especially interesting because that is how we identify ourselves. I AM a Fortenberry!

Please be aware that the conclusions this summary presents may be quite different from the stories you will find on the internet. I have attempted to provide references for the records so individuals interested in trying to learn more of the history can follow my research. Of course, there are many more details to the events than are presented here. But I assure you the historical records are there. Many of these events and connections are very complex and therefore difficult to summarize in a few words. What you have just read is a result of many years of research.

To those of you who have not been able to establish a firm connection to one of the three brothers in Virginia, I wish you luck in your search. I would suggest you carefully search everything you can find in Burke, Rutherford, and Cleveland Counties in North Carolina where Andrew Faulkenberg gave his deposition.

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39. Sinnick Broer, 13.
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