

## The Howard Miller Family: Where Did We Come From?

By Steve M. Miller

Every story has to have a beginning. Ours will start in Halifax County, Virginia, in

1769. In that year, a man named William Roberts executed a deed of trust to his son,

Samual Roberts and his son-in-law, Haman Miller. These two individuals went his bond

so William could purchase some merchandise from Cunningham and Company in

Glasgow, Scotland

(1).

William Roberts' note coming due and the beginning of hostilities

with England happened to coincide. William did not pay the note, thinking that all debts

due English allies were cancelled once war began.

In 1779 or 1780, William Roberts and his family moved from Halifax County,

Virginia to Randolph County, North Carolina. Among the family members were his son-

in-law Haman Miller and his daughter (Haman's wife), Frances Roberts Miller. Randolph

had just recently been formed from the southern portion of Guilford County in 1779.

Book I of

Randolph County Real Estate Conveyances

, shows that Haman Miller

purchased 200 acres of land from Godfrey Ridge In the Jackson Creek area on October

7,1780. Haman paid Mr. Ridge 300 pounds. Randolph County records show that Haman

had quite an appetite for land, purchasing 3034 acres between 1780 and 1809.

William Roberts died sometime between 1785 and 1787. In 1795, the state of North Carolina ruled that debts due England and her allies were collectable

(2).

Therefore,

the son-in-law Haman Miller and William's son Samuel had to pay the 1769 note.

Interestingly, the Virginia Court in Halifax County, on October 27,1788 ruled that James

Roberts, another brother-in-law to Haman, and Sarah Roberts, the mother-in-law to

Haman were to pay Haman,

the sum of Seventy Pounds Twelve Shillings and Eight Pence

Half Penny...

(3).

Why Haman brought a suit against these two relatives is not really clear.

With William Roberts having just recently died however, it can be guessed that it had

something to do with the settlement of his estate