

VALENTINE LEONARD

Valentine Leonard, Jr., was the pioneer's oldest son to remain in NC. He lived and died in Davidson County, NC, where according to his estate settlement, he owned land along the Yadkin River, bordered by Reedy Creek and on Farmers Creek and Bibbys Creek. About 1484 acres of land in Davidson County was divided among his heirs on 5-25-1815 as well as the 185 acres in Lincoln County, NC, which his son Philip Leonard inherited. The tract of about 900 acres on Farmers and Bibbys creeks was probably his home place.

I am not really sure who he married, and I think it is entirely possible he was married twice. A persistent family tradition which was accepted by Dr. J. C. Leonard listed his wife as Anna Catharina Sauer. Certainly he was married to a woman by this Christian name in 1786, for on 10-14-1786 Valentine Leonard and his wife Anna Catharine sponsored at the baptism of Anna Catharina, the daughter of his brother Michael Leonard. Thus, we are positively sure his last four children, born after 1786, were the children of Valentine and Anna Catharina Leonard. Two deeds at Salisbury, however, leave the possibility of an earlier marriage, for on 1-31-1816, when Barbara Kistler, widow, of Rowan County, sold 182 acres to George Clodfelter, it was described as the land which was to belong to Barbara Kistler at the "decease of my honored mother, Catharine Leonard." This deed would seem to establish one mother, Catharine Leonard, for all of the children of Valentine Leonard, Jr., but on 2-1-1816, when George Clodfelter sold this same land to Peter Leonard, it was described as "all that lot or dividend of land which may fall to the share of Barbara Kistler, widow, out of the land held by her stepmother, Catharine Leonard, by bond from the heirs of Valentine Leonard, deceased." This second deed would seem to indicate Valentine Leonard, Jr., was married twice, and that Anna Catharina Leonard was the mother of his youngest children. It is not known if she was Anna Catharina Sauer, but it appears unlikely, as Anna Catharina, the daughter of Philip Sauer, married Stephen Weaver. A perfect record of the children of Valentine Leonard, Jr., is contained in the first book of Pilgrim Church.

Valentine Leonard, Jr., never moved away from Rowan County (now Davidson County), but he did buy a tract of land in Lincoln County and was, thus, responsible for the settlement of a branch of the family in Lincoln County. On 3-7-1809, he purchased from Henry Neff a tract of 200 acres on Potts Creek in what was then Lincoln County which had been originally granted to Francis Beatty on 4-6-1765, but was probably not occupied at that date. The land is probably now in Catawba County, near Grace Church, as indicated by the adjoining landowners in the various deeds. On 10-21-1813, Valentine Leonard sold a small section of 14 acres of this land to Jacob Kiestler of Lincoln County. On 5-8-1815, as part of the division of the estate of Valentine Leonard, a commission of Philip Anthony, David Hartzog, John Hoyle, Paul Anthony and Samuel Lantz surveyed this tract of the remaining 185 acres as the share of the estate which belonged to Philip Leonard. The land was bordered by the property of Thomas Wilson, Henry Ramsaur, Henry Neff and Charles Shull. Philip Leonard sold this land very shortly thereafter on 7-4-1816, to Jacob Shuford, Jr.

Although Valentine Leonard, Jr., left no will, his family is well documented in the division of his estate to be found at the courthouse

in Salisbury. His eldest son, Philip Leonard, received the above tract of 185 acres in Lincoln County. On 5-25-1815, D. Leatherman, Joseph Clark, John Monroe, Ezekiel Brown, Wills Otts, and Britian J. Heymoore, Jr., divided his land in Rowan County. David Eller received 160 acres and Joseph Hege received 160 acres of the farm on the east bank of the Yadkin River and adjoining Reedy Creek. This land also adjoined the land of Lazarus Hege, John Felps and Jacob Huffman. The largest tract of almost 900 acres on Farmers and Bibbys creeks, adjoining Frederick Rakes and Daniel Waggoner, was divided among four of the heirs; 232 acres to Barbara Kistler; 217 acres to George Leonard; 250 acres to Peter Leonard; and 200 acres to David Leonard. The third tract which was situated on Farmers Creek and adjoined Philip Sink and Abraham Kaine was divided into two tract; 143 acres to Peter Clodfelter and 121 acres to Valentine Leonard.

Author Unknown

1820

