



Garrison
and
Searcy

Family Histories

Compiled - 1994

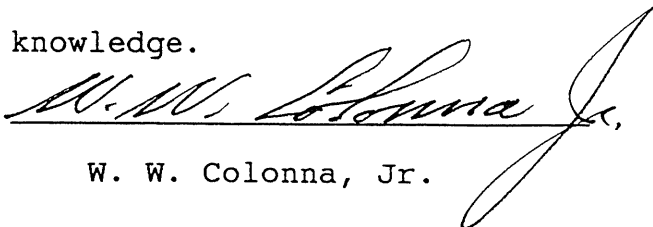
INTRODUCTION

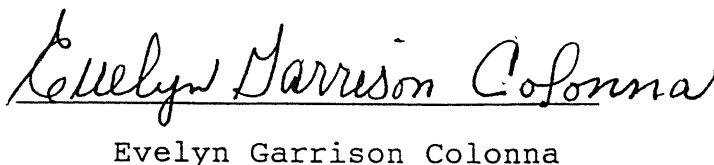
These family histories and paintings are primarily compiled by Bill Colonna and his wife Evelyn Garrison Colonna of Chesapeake, Virginia whose father was James Albert Garrison (1909-1966) and mother Osie Estelle Searcy Garrison (1913-) wife of James Albert Garrison. But with the help and assistance of many. Just to name a few, Osie Searcy Garrison, Albert Hugh Garrison, Sue Garrison Collins, Celia Garrison Skipper, Lucille Garrison Metcalf, Ray Kirstein of Broad River - Black Mountain, North Carolina.

The histories are done to trace both families from their known origin in this country to James Albert Garrison (1909-1966) and his wife Osie Searcy Garrison (1913-) after which family members can bring it forward as desired.

The histories of these families from the mountains of western North Carolina with photos of individuals and photographs of original paintings by well known artist Casey Holtzinger along with many facts about individuals, stories, etc. are most interesting and deeply woven into the history of that area, it should help create a real pride by all direct descendants, indirect, married into or associated with these families.

These histories are done with accuracy to the best of our knowledge.


W. W. Colonna, Jr.


Evelyn Garrison Colonna

Garrison Family History



GARRISON FAMILY HISTORY
BROAD RIVER AREA - BLACK MOUNTAIN, N.C.

As word of mouth has it, many years ago the Garrisons came into this country from France and at some time 4 or 5 Garrison brothers left their Virginia home near Richmond to relocate. It is said 3 of them located in North Carolina. 1 or 2 went further south around Charleston, South Carolina or Savannah, Georgia. This history begins with William A. Garrison (1812-1893) who settled in the Broad River, section of Black Mountain, North Carolina and who is the first Garrison to settle there (approximately 1835). At this point there is also reason to include a Mr. Murphy from Edenton, North Carolina whose family ties into and becomes a part of the Garrison history. In Mr. Murphy's decision to become a soldier of the Revolutionary War, he also made the decision to send his wife, children, slaves and farm animals to the mountains of Western North Carolina to escape the British. He was later killed in this war. His wife and family remained in Broad River, making this their home. As time passed, they opened their home as a stagecoach stop with overnight lodging and food at Broad River calling it the High Porch Tavern, on the approximately 50 mile run from Morganton to Asheville. By this time, the son James Murphy had grown, married and had a daughter. This daughter Sarah Emeline Murphy (1823-1912) was living at her family home and stagecoach stop, when she met, fell in love and married a young stagecoach driver, William A. Garrison (1812-1893) who at the most opportune time had made arrangements with some local politicians to transport them by stage to Washington D. C. and decided to carry his new bride along for their honeymoon. On trips of any distance he always had to carry a Bible in the event a passenger should die and he had to bury them. He was also required to sign a document stating he would give his life, if necessary, for the protection of his passengers. It is not known just when William A. Garrison stopped his job as stage coach driver but the stage coach run

continued until the railroad came into the area just after the Civil War.

They had nine children as follows:

1. Mary H. Garrison B-1843
2. John H. Garrison B-1845
3. Tourany Elizabeth Garrison B-1848
4. James Calhoun Garrison B-1850
 - a. His wife was Indian or part Indian
 - b. In the family today (1990) in the custody of Evelyn Garrison Colonna is a cast iron kettle that belonged to and was used by James Calhoun Garrison and his wife & family in their Broad River, North Carolina home.
5. Anne Garrison B-1851
6. Martha Jane Garrison B-1854
7. Merilda Dory Garrison B-1857
8. William Albartes Garrison B-1861
9. Levinia Emeline Mesoury Adelane Garrison B-1866

William A. Garrison by trade had become a skilled carpenter and contracted to build the courthouse in Atlanta, Georgia. During the contract he went broke, thus landing him in debtor's prison. His wife being put out with him, swearing never to speak with him again took the children and hitchhiked back home to Broad River. But upon his return she was overjoyed. In 1893 he was attending an election on a whiskey referendum about 4 miles from home when a thunderstorm came up. He and others were standing under a tree when lightening struck the tree, killing him, another man and 2 mules.



MURPHY'S HIGH PORCH TAVERN
CIRCA 1835
BROAD RIVER-BLACK MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

DIRECT GARRISON LINEAGE

From - Earliest known Ancestors

to - James Albert Garrison (1909-1966)

1ST GENERATION RICHARD GARRISON (? -1813)
Wife: Hannah

2ND GENERATION GARRETT GARRISON (1779- ?)
Wife: Elizabeth

3RD GENERATION WILLIAM A. GARRISON (1812-1893)
Wife: Sarah Emmeline Murphy (1823-1912)
Lived Upper Broad River, North Carolina
Both Buried - Wilkey Baptist Church, Upper Broad River,
North Carolina

4TH GENERATION JAMES CALHOUN GARRISON (1850-1915)
Wife: Dora Ann Lancaster (1855-1927)
Lived - Upper Broad River, North Carolina
Both Buried - Wilkey Baptist Church, Upper Broad River,
North Carolina

5TH GENERATION JAMES GARRETT GARRISON (1881-1967)
Wife: Hattie Nannie Nesbitt
Lived - Upper Broad River, Fairview, North Carolina
Both Buried - Nesbitt Chapel Methodist Church, Fairview,
North Carolina

6TH GENERATION JAMES ALBERT GARRISON (1909-1966)
Lived - Fairview, Upper Broad River, North Carolina until
1942 then Norfolk, Virginia
Buried - Rosewood Cemetery - Virginia Beach, Virginia
Wife: Osie Estelle Searcy (1913-____)

NOTE: See attached pages for personal information about some of the
people above.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

1992

WILLIAM A. GARRISON (1812-1893)

For personal information read attached history entitled Garrison Family History - Broad River Area - Black Mountain, North Carolina.

SARAH EMMELINE MURPHY (1823-1912)

For personal information read attached history as per her husband William A. Garrison above.

JAMES CALHOUN GARRISON (1850-1915)

See attached history entitled Garrison Family History - Broad River Area - Black Mountain, North Carolina under children of William A. and Sarah Emeline Murphy Garrison.

JAMES GARRETT GARRISON (1881-1967)

Family has photo. of medium large statue, liked to play jokes on people, farmed, had a dairy, raised chickens, often sat on the jury and used jury fees to pay property taxes.

HATTIE NANNIE NESBITT (1882 -1945)

Of small statue, very thin and frail.

JAMES ALBERT GARRISON (1909-1966)

A rather tall, slim man by statue, had five children. Smoked cigarettes and drank lots of coffee. Was a welder and burner by trade. His hobby was flower and vegetable gardening. In 1941, he decided to leave his mountain home and family temporarily to seek a defense job to increase his family's income. He went to the bus station and ask to buy a ticket to Biloxi, Mississippi and was told the bus had left so he asked for a ticket on the next bus wherever it was going. So he caught the next bus which took him to Norfolk, Virginia where he went to work at Colonna's Shipyard. Sent for his family where he remained the rest of his life. Today, 1992, his wife, children and their descendants all remain in the Tidewater area and are an especially close family. Just think how missing that bus in 1941 changed the lives of so many people today and in the future.

GARRISON FAMILY HISTORY

Broad River Area - Black Mountain, North Carolina

Mr. Ray Kirstein, 67, who's mother was a Garrison now living in Broad River at the foot of the Garrison Cemetery on the mountain at Wilkey Baptist Church on who's land once stood the Murphy home and stage coach stop where William A. Garrison as a young stage coach driver met his wife Sarah Emeline Murphy around 1835 and who maintains the cemetery, has the old Garrison Bible and knows more of its family history than anyone. Ray says that through the years the Garrisons had the reputation of being well respected and hard working. He is a very tall, long legged, slim built man displaying all the traits of his Garrison side of the family.

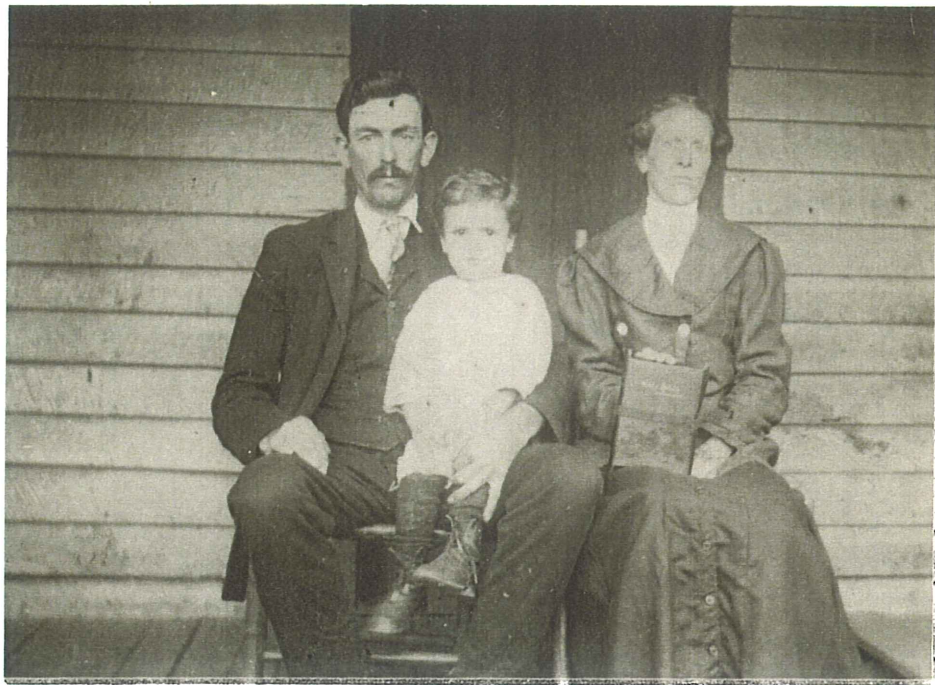
LEGAL WHISKEY

Ray says many years ago the Garrison's and others in the area made legal whiskey. The problem being the tax was so much they couldn't make a profit on it. It seems as if that problem was solved by removing the tax stamp from the barrel after delivery and reinstalling it on the next barrel before delivery as if the tax had been paid. It is said often this process was repeated 4 or 5 times with the original stamp.

THE PRESSING GANG

There was a dispute to put it mildly years ago between the Garrison and Morris families in the area. Apparently the Garrison's would catch a member of the Morris family away from home and somehow roll him with a log therefore giving the Garrison's the name and reputation of the Garrison Pressing Gang.

No one seems to know or no one will tell any more about it than that. Even to what the dispute was about or just what or how rolling or pressing someone with a log was done.



JAMES GARRETT GARRISON
(1881-1967)

HATTIE LEE NESBITT GARRISON
(1882-1945)

ROY GARRISON

They lived and raised their family in the Garren Creek
section of Fairview, North Carolina.



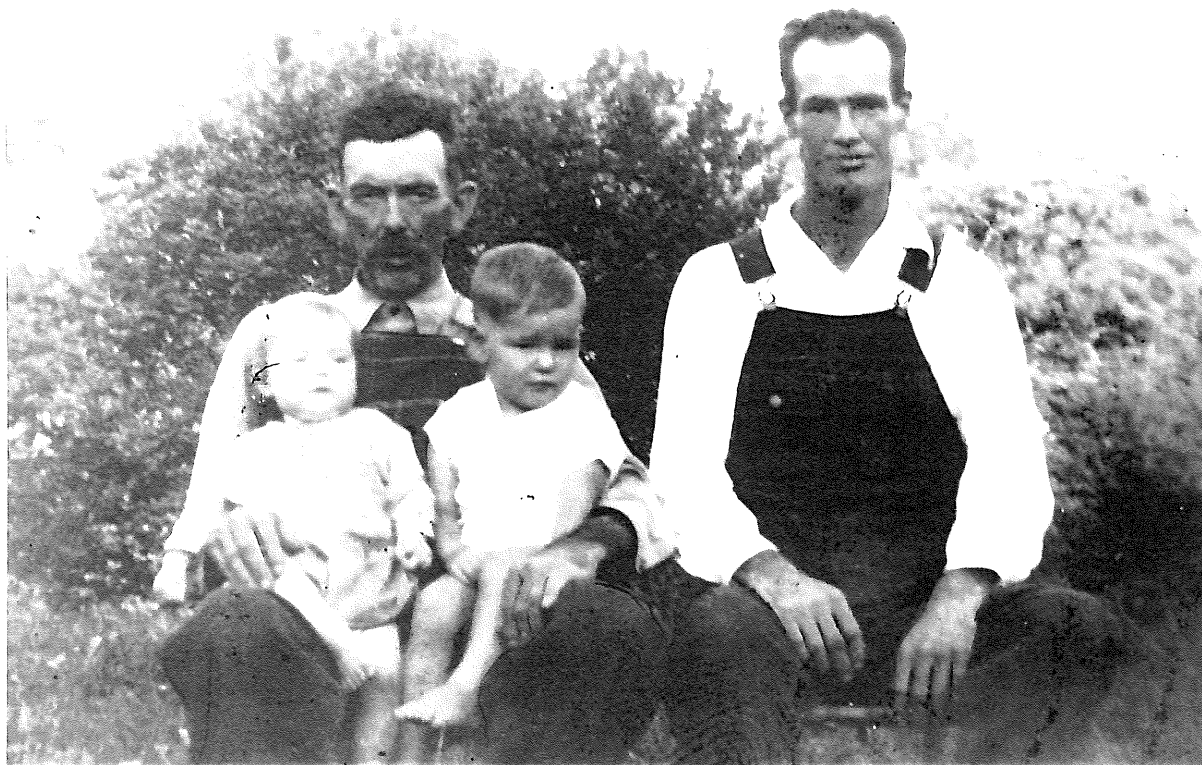
JAMES GARRETT GARRISON
(1881-1967)

James Albert Garrison's Father



HATTIE NESBITT GARRISON
(1882-1945)

James Albert Garrison's Mother



JAMES GARRETT GARRISON
(1881-1967)

JAMES ALBERT GARRISON
(1909-1966)

Children of James Albert Garrison:

Evelyn Garrison (1935-)

Albert Hugh Garrison (1934-)



JAMES ALBERT GARRISON
(1909-1966)

OSIE ESTELLE SEARCY GARRISON
(1913-)

Searcy Family History

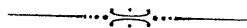


SEARCY FAMILY HISTORY

Mill Springs, North Carolina

THE BEGINNING

Word of mouth has it that the Searcy family originally came from France then migrated into the British Isles. At some time many years ago, five to seven Searcy brothers left by ship from Liverpool, England for America arriving in Charleston, South Carolina. One of the brothers was John Searcy believed to be the first known ancestor of the Searcy family of and around Mill Springs, North Carolina. From John Searcy (1764-1841) next was Elijah Searcy (about 1825 - after 1881) then William Franklin Searcy (1848-1904) then William McGruffie Searcy (1879-1932), etc.



DIRECT SEARCY LINEAGE

From - Earliest known ancestors

to - Osie Estelle Searcy Garrison - Born 1913

1ST GENERATION ROBERT SEARSEY (thought to be the father of John Searcy
(1764-1841)
Lived - Burke County, North Carolina

2ND GENERATION JOHN SEARCY (1764-1841)
A patriot of the Revolutionary War
Lived - Born in Albermarle County, Virginia in 1764.
In 1781 he lived in Henry County, Virginia then Burke
County, North Carolina. In 1800 he lived in Rutherford
County, North Carolina
Wife: Barbara Ingle
Lived - Widowed and lived in Polk County, North Carolina
1855. This may not have been his first wife.

3RD GENERATION ELIJAH SEARCY (About 1825 - after 1881)
Lived Mill Springs, North Carolina
Wives: Rebecca Ann Pack
Louisa Laughter
Katie Weaver
Joannah Page

4TH GENERATION WILLIAM FRANKLIN SEARCY (1848-1904)
Wife: Malinda Ellen Ruff (1853-1930)
Both Lived - Mill Springs, North Carolina
Both Buried - Coopers Gap Baptist Church, Mill Springs,
North Carolina

5TH GENERATION WILLIAM MCGUFFIE SEARCY (1879-1932)
Wife: Susie Caroline Hudgins (1891-1961)
Both Lived - Mill Springs, North Carolina
Both Buried - Coopers Gap Baptist Church, Mill Springs,
North Carolina

6TH GENERATION OSIE ESTELLE SEARCY GARRISON (1913 -)
Lived - Mill Springs, Upper Broad River, North Carolina
until 1942 - then Norfolk, Virginia
Husband - James Albert Garrison (1909-1966)

NOTE: See attached pages for personal information about some of the
above people.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

JOHN SEARCY (1764-1841)

See attached newspaper article.

ELIJAH SEARCY (About 1825-After 1881)

Had four wives, made and sold wooden shoe pegs. Lived in a log cabin located well up above his son William Franklin Searcy's log cabin.

-WILLIAM FRANKLIN SEARCY (1848 - 1904)

Family has photo of him. For personal information read attached history of Searcy Mountain Log Cabin circa 1870 Mill Springs, N.C. Also attached history entitled Wives and Girlfriends - a way of life.

MALINDA ELLEN RUFF (1853-1930)

She spoke with an old English accent, of medium stature, was very strict. See attached histories as per her husband William Franklin Searcy plus another entitled Staying with Grandma.

WILLIAM MCGUFFIE SEARCY (1879-1932)

Family has photo, he farmed, skinned tan bark, cut cross ties, hunted, had milk cow, some beef cattle, hogs, chickens. Lived in log cabin. Was a small man in stature but was very fiery. As a young boy he was nicknamed and called "Doctor" until starting school when he was asked his middle name, having none but glancing down at the McGuffie reader on his desk and probably being a bit embarrassed having no middle name he said, McGuffie after his reader. McGuffie became his middle name along with being called "Guff" for the rest of his life.

SUSIE CAROLINE HUDGINS (1891-1961)

Family has photo. A medium sized person in stature and very smart. Had 10 children. Loved to tell stories especially ghost stories. Her parents died when she was very young and she was raised by her brothers and sisters. She corded and spun her own wool from the sheep's back from which she made socks and gloves. White wool made white socks, black wool black socks, etc. with her children often choosing their color choice. She made her own dyes from bark, roots and leaves, often making dresses for her girls from feed sacks and dyeing them different colors. She made her own soap. Although not a licensed mid-wife, she delivered fifty babies under emergency circumstances when a doctor or licensed mid-wife was not available.

OSIE ESTELLE SEARCY GARRISON (1913-)

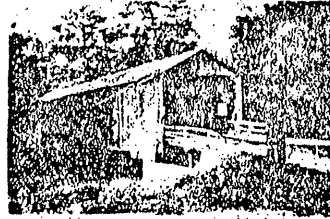
Had five children. Small in stature, 5'3" tall. Very dedicated to her family.

After Traveling Around John Searcy Settled Here In 1800

Among the many patriots of the Revolutionary War who made Rutherford County their home at some time during their lives, was John Searcy, whose descendants today are scattered throughout the western North Carolina area as well as several other states. We have not found any data on the descendants of John Searcy, and relied only on his pension application for the information contained in the following sketch. We would

Bridges To The Past

by Mrs. Ernest Newton
Route 2, Ellenboro, N.C.
and Roy Brooks
Box 661, Forest City, N.C.



like to hear from descendants who might have additional data on the family.

JOHN SEARCY

John Searcy was born in Albemarle County, Virginia in the year 1764. When John was about 17 years of age, in the year 1781 he was living with his father in Henry County, Virginia where he was drafted for his first tour of duty.

He was placed in Captain Brice Martin's company and was assigned to guard a ferry on the Dan River where it was expected that Cornwallis would cross. The company remained at this place "until the battle was fought at Guilford". Apparently Cornwallis did not use this particular ferry in crossing the Dan River since no mention is made of it in Searcy's application for pension.

Shortly after returning home from this tour, John Searcy was drafted into service again, this time in Captain Thomas Henderson's company in the Regiment commanded by a Major Rose and part of the time, by Major Ward. The regiment was ordered on a Southern tour and joined the main Army under General Green near Ninety-Six, S. C. where they participated in the battle there. After the battle of Ninety - Six, the regiment was sent to join General Sumpter's troops at the "High Hills of Santee", but by this time, the three - month term of their enlistments had expired and the men were discharged.

John Searcy returned to his home in Henry County, Virginia, and was immediately drafted again for a third tour of three months duty. He was assigned to Capt. William Hill's company in Major Waller's (?) Regiment and marched to join the main Northern Army, and was in battles at Little York and Williamsburg. After arriving at the main headquarters, they were issued "arms and camp equipage" and placed under General Nelson's command. In his application for pension, John Searcy states that he was present at the capture of Cornwallis and after that, was discharged and returned to his home in Henry County.

Shortly after the war, he states "My father with his family moved to Burke County, North Carolina. I came with the family to the same place, but travelled around for several years."

In the year 1800, he settled in Rutherford County, N. C. where he continued to live until his death many years later. In attempting to establish his need for a pension, he states, "I

never received anything for my services and I am now old and penniless, not very able to work for a support and hope that a generous publick will sustain the old veterans in their decline."

He was granted a pension on the basis of his application filed before the Rutherford County court on the 23rd of October, 1832.

In March of 1855, John Searcy's widow, Barbara, then living in Polk County, N.C. applied for the widow's pension and stated in her application that she was married to him about the year 1822, that her named before her marriage was Barbara Ingle, and that John Searcy died about the year 1840. She was allowed a pension, and later obtained the bounty land to which veterans were entitled.

(Above dated extracted from pension file #W-24934, National Archives).

We have not been able to determine if Barbara Ingle was the first wife of John Searcy. Since he would have been about 58 years old in 1822, it is logical to assume that he was previously married, possibly before 1800 when he first settled in Rutherford County after "travelling around" for several years. The 1800 Census for Rutherford County does not list John Searcy but in 1810 the Census shows John Searcy with one male 10 to 16 years of age, one male over 45 years of age, and two females 10 to 16 years of age. This would indicate that his first wife died before 1810. The Rutherford County census for 1820 shows three heads of household named John Searcy but the only one with a male over 45 shows John Searcy living with a son between 16 and 26 years of age and there are no females listed in that household.

To assist researchers interested in the Searcy family, the following Census records might give some leads in locating ancestors. A check of the 1790 Census for the entire State of North Carolina reveals the following Searcy families: Johnston County: Daniel, George, John, and William; in Randolph County, William; in Anson County, William; Granville County, William Hargrove Searcy; Burke County, Robert Searsey (this might possibly have been the father of John, the subject of the foregoing column); Rutherford County, Richard and William.

SEARCY MOUNTAIN LOG CABIN
CIRCA 1870'S
MILL SPRINGS, NORTH CAROLINA

This painting shows the cabin and members of the family on Christmas Eve bringing home the Christmas tree. Life was hard in these rugged mountains of Western North Carolina just after the War Between the States. The people made their living by farming, logging, breeding farm animals, hunting wild animals from the forest for food and fur which they sold and some trading with the Cherokee Indians still living in the mountains. Neighbors were few, chores were hard and endless but these conditions made for a strong family bond which exists in the descendants of these families today.

During this era the people truly lived off the land with few necessities from the outside world. William "Bill" Franklin Searcy (1848-1904) and his wife Malinda Ellen Ruff (1853-1930) built this log cabin and kitchen in which they lived along with two others in the area, including the one above this one in which their son William McGuffie "Guff" Searcy lived. In 1904 when at the age of 55 William Franklin Searcy and others, with family and neighbors watching, were snaking a huge log out of a hollow on the mountain above this cabin with a team of four oxen - two older experienced animals yoked together in front and two young inexperienced ones behind them. After having gotten the huge log out of the hollow the younger oxen acted up and the log got loose, rolling downward pinning William Franklin Searcy against his son's (William McGuffie Searcy) cabin and crushing him mortally. He was taken home to this cabin in critical condition where he lay in much pain. A doctor was summoned, arriving late that night by horseback. William was placed on the kitchen table and examined but there was nothing the doctor could do and he died early that morning while breakfast was being prepared. Immediately after his death a small open container of salt was placed on his stomach believing this would prevent swelling because no embalming was done and the burial was always on the third day.



SEARCY LOG CABIN
CIRCA 1870
MILL SPRINGS, NORTH CAROLINA

STAYING WITH GRANDMA

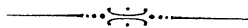
Melinda Ellen Ruff (1853 - 1930)

Osie Estella Searcy Garrison remembers well staying with her grandmother in this cabin as a young girl of 9 or 10 years old during the summers. Osie's parents sent her there to help watch after her grandmother because she was not well and needed help. Grandma was a very strict woman who wanted everything in its place. She spoke with an English accent that she got from her father and brothers who came here from England.

In her later years her imagination would picture people in the room with her when she was alone and she imagined that these people intended to hurt her. This just scared me to death especially at night and made me want to not stay there. Grandma told me when she was a young girl during the War Between the States that northern soldiers would come thru and take everything they had and food got so scarce they rationed out the corn meal one tablespoon full per person per meal. Salt was scarce, nearly non-existent, and her family craved it so that they dug up the salt drippings in the dirt floor of their smoke house, they then took this mixture of dirt and salt and tied it up in a rag, boiled it in water and used the salty water to cook with.

Grandma wouldn't let anyone lie or sit on the bed after it was made up nor eat anything between meals. I often tried to sneak something to eat, from a drawer in the kitchen table, and each time the drawer would squeak and each time Grandma would catch me. I remember sneaking peaches from a basket in the living room, taking them upstairs and throwing them out the window to the ground. Then we would go outside the house and eat them.

The kitchen had a big stone fireplace and a wood cook stove. Grandma cooked on both but preferred the fireplace since she had become accustomed to this method of cooking when she was a young girl.



WIVES & GIRLFRIENDS - A WAY OF LIFE

In the painting of the Searcy Mountain log cabin (circa 1870's) William Franklin Searcy (1848-1904) lived in this cabin with his wife Melinda Ellen Ruff Searcy (1853-1930) and seven children by him. In the kitchen pictured to the right of the cabin in the painting later converted into a small cabin for his girlfriend (Dora Ruff) to live in with four children by him. To make the story more interesting his wife and girlfriend were sisters. It is said that when he got mad with one he would go live with the other for a while. Descendants of Dora Ruff (the girlfriend) who took the Ruff surname attend the Searcy family reunions today and proudly claim kin to the Searcy clan which in fact they are. It seems that years ago back in these mountains it was a common practice for a man to have a wife and a girlfriend and this was generally known but seldom talked about.

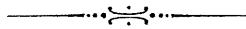
THE WITCH ANN SHEPHARD

About a half a mile to the left of the William Franklin Searcy Cabin lived the so called witch. She told people in the area that when she left home she would draw a circle in the dirt around her house and if anyone stepped into the circle they couldn't get out until she came home and let them out.

Neighbors noticed no smoke had come from her chimney for several days and went to see if she was well. After checking to see that there was no circle drawn around the house in the dirt they entered cautiously and found her dead on her bed with a big black cat lying beside her, they took a stick to chase the cat off the bed and the cat became as big as a dog, they tried again and again until the cat was as big as a calf and then it disappeared.

Or if she didn't want to draw the circle in the dirt she would place a broom across her door which served the same purpose.

People would often report seeing strange lights in the night that sometimes disappeared in mysterious ways near her house even after her death.





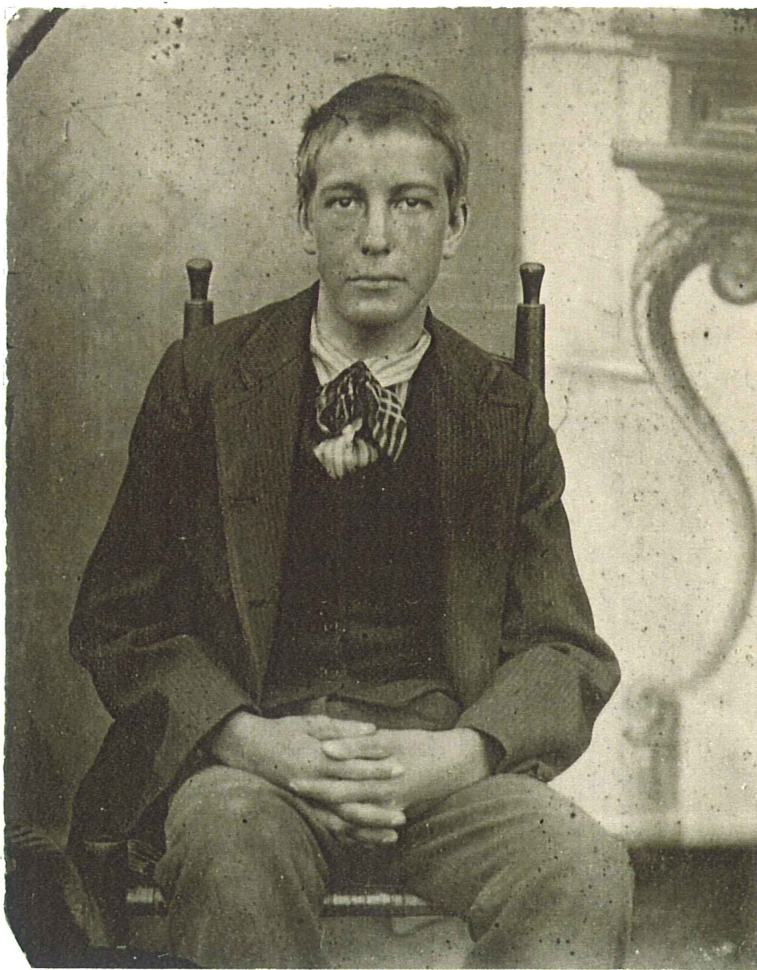
WILLIAM "BILL" FRANKLIN SEARCY
(1848-1904)

- - - - -
Killed by a log rolling on him.

William Guff Searcy's Father.

They lived all their lives around
Mill Springs, North Carolina.

- - - - -
Child is Jasper Searcy, William
Searcy's son.



WILLIAM GUFF SEARCY
(1879-1932)

Son of William Franklin Searcy.

16 or 17 years old when picture was taken.

He and his father lived all their lives in Mill Springs, North Carolina.

- - - - -

Osie Searcy Garrison's Father.



WILLIAM GUFF SEARCY
(1879-1932)

SUSIE CAROLINE HUDGINS SEARCY
(1881-1961)

- - - - -
Osie Searcy Garrison's Parents

The following three pages are a handwritten description by Osie Searcy Garrison, 80 years old, that she presented to a Searcy family reunion in 1995. The description is of her father, her parent's wedding day in Mill Springs, North Carolina on January 30, 1899 along with other subjects of interest.

Osie is the daughter of William Guff Searcy (1879-1932) and Susie Caroline Hudgins Searcy (1881-1961).



July 1995

My Father

I have nothing to display at this reunion that belonged to my father. We were ask to bring something,

My memories

a man who loved his family, would fight for his children if necessary. He loved fun and a good time in his young days. He loved his life as a woman.

The Wedding Day.

Told to me by my mother; Susan Caroline Hudgins Searcy. I always love to hear momma tell of her younger days.

There were 50 guest at Papa's & mamma's wedding. After the wedding they went to Papa's sister's house for a dance. Local men were the musicians. a fiddler a banjo player and french harp player. There was a "Caller" ~~who~~ who called the dances. When he called out "Change partners", Papa would or did grab Sherrell Melton's wife, Sherrell would pop his fist and say "Old Billy Williams" stole my partner, I'll steal me another one, steal me another one, then he would grab mamma. all in fun. They never missed a step.

Old Billy ~~Williams~~ Williams was just a name

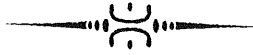
The women was wearing long dresses to the floor. (it was the style) some smart teen ~~the~~ boys got a bright idea, they dropped matches on the floor as they danced around. as the people shuffled and danced the matches began to strike and pop. The musicians stoped the music at once, Women grabbed brooms and swept the matches into the fire place. The young man was called aside and chewed out, every thing calmed down, music started again, they danced all night.

Papa's heart was made of Gold.

Strangers or Ken if passing our house at noon time, was ask to come in and eat, and they did. many spent the night, In my young child head men would walk from down about Spartanburg. S.C. to Henderson Co. the road went by our house. It seemed to me these people managed to be passing our house at dinner time (Lunch) I still feel that way. Papa usually was sitting on the porch or in the yard waiting for mama to say, "come on its ready". These travelers would stop to

chat a bit with Papa, Papa would
always say come in, Sucky was
dinner on the table - they always
did. There was two black men
that passed through about twice
a year one was Bill Brown the
other Daffer I never heard or
forgot his last name Daffer ~~was~~
is all I remember. They were
always invited to eat with us.
Papa was no respecter
of persons.

Osee S. Garrison



we would get all we could
of history for four
children. I have just
finished a book The Old
Country Doctor of which
reminded me of Old Man
Joe Gilhert our family
doctor in the old days.
When a child was born
at home papa would pay
him if he had the
money if he did not
Joe would say Guff cut
me down a few twists of
that tobacco you have
hanging there and see
will be ever - papa all
ways had twisted tobacco
hanging from the joint
this had reminded me of

This is an excerpt from a letter written by Ollie Searcy Wilson (1899-1990) about the Old Country Doctor of Mill Springs, North Carolina. Ollie was a sister of Osie Searcy Garrison and the daughter of William Guff Searcy (1879-1932) and Susie Caroline Hudgins Searcy (1881-1961).

I take the liberty of inserting a few words at the end of these family histories though I am not a direct descendant but having married Evelyn Garrison, a daughter of James Albert Garrison and Osie Searcy Garrison, I know this family well and my purpose for writing this is to simply say they are a most unusual group and should be admired by all who know or associate with them.

First and maybe foremost there is absolutely no malice, envy or greed toward one another in this family. There is one hundred percent trust and admiration with constant contact between family members on a daily basis. Another unusual thing is that all of the mother's (Osie Garrison's) children, live almost next door to or within a few miles of her. I could go on but to put it simply I have never seen or heard of such a close family and I dare say there are but a few. I don't know where this closeness comes from but maybe, just maybe, most of it comes from an earlier way of life born and bred into them with pride and when family counted on family from their ancestor's ways in those large beautiful mountains of western North Carolina from where they came.

Just a few days ago Evelyn was taking some photos of Miss Osie, her mother, when Miss Osie asked why the picture taking and I said because you are good-looking. Miss Osie said, "then if I am so good looking why aren't I rich". Well maybe Miss Osie is not real rich as rich goes but I will say with certainty that she along with her family in the ways that really count are the wealthiest people I know.