

Persistence, serendipity aid genealogist

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TRACING *Pasts*

Persistence and serendipity might not seem to go together, but together they broke down two of my brick walls. Persistence means “to continue firmly; refuse to stop.”

Persistently, I researched the Moore family, finding everything I could about them in 96 District, S.C. James Moore, my ancestor, wrote a will, naming his wife Ann, his mother Susanna, and his four sons. A brother, Richard, was named executor for James, but declined to serve, because of his advanced age. Also, I found that James, along with two of

his brothers, John and William, fought with others from 96 District, in the Kings Mountain Campaign. In the deeds of the area, I found a William Moore, deceased, with land next to James Moore. James’ brother, William, was alive at the time. Could this be the brothers’ father?

Now, let’s go to the meaning of “serendipity.” It means “the ability to find, by accident, interesting items of information, unexpected proof of one’s theories, etc.” One day, I was researching in Ancestry.com, and decided to put into the search

engine, the name “William Moore,” without any other parameters. The first item that was shown of the thousands of hits was a William and Susanna Moore in Bute County, N.C. Again, persistently, I researched Bute County and Warren County, which Bute later became. Excitedly, I found William Moore’s will. There was his wife, Susanna; his four sons, Richard, William, James and John; along with five daughters.

This family came from North Carolina to South Carolina.

Next step was to find where they had come from before they landed in North Carolina. I researched in Virginia, plus

researched the executors of the will and all the families the sons had married into. They all came from different Virginia counties, but I couldn’t find my William Moore in any of them. I had other Virginia families to research, so I included the Moores in my research in each of these counties. But alas, no William and Susanna Moore were found. My enthusiasm for finding this family in Virginia waned, but I continued to keep track of all the William, James, Richard and John Moores. My Virginia Moore file was bulging.

Now, let’s go back to serendipity.

One day at the Florida

Archives while I was doing research in *The Virginia Genealogist*, a magazine, edited by John Frederick Dorman, a noted historian and genealogist, I shot up out of my chair, jumping up and down, and stifling a scream with my hands. There in Brunswick County was William and Susanna Moore selling property in 1734. I’d found them. As I looked at a Virginia map, I realized Brunswick, Va., was just across the state line from Warren County, N.C., originally Bute County. Why hadn’t I searched there? No telling, but since then, I’ve found two more lines from this Moore family, thanks to persistence and serendipity.