

## **Dr. William Houston & Family**

### **Research, Conclusions & References**

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#### **Basic facts regarding Dr. William Houston and his wife, Anna Jones Houston:**

Dr. William Houston according to census records was born about 1710-1715<sup>1</sup>. This estimated birth year is based on known children's and grandchildren's ages/birth year and average life span. He was married to Anna Jones, daughter of Squire Griffith Jones<sup>2 3 4 5</sup>. They were probably married in New Hanover County or Bladen County about 1739 based on the age of their oldest son and Dr. William Houston's arrival to the area. (Duplin County wasn't formed until 1750.)

I have shown him being a native of county Antrim, Ireland. This has not been proven and comes from other genealogy work with no reference to source. This could be a probability based on geographical location of the estates of Henry McCulloh. In 1742, he states in a petition to the State Senate dated April 24, 1780, he settled land then belonging to, his uncle Henry McCulloh. He first appears in the official record in 1744 although he may have been there much earlier than 1742. Due to the nature of his relationship with his Uncle, Henry McCulloch and the duties he was charged with, I have estimated his age upon arrival to the colonies to be between 20 to 25 years of age. His approximate arrival about 1738 was most likely on a merchant ship of his uncle's at the Port of Brunswick. He died before August 24, 1792, with sales from his estate occurring January 18, 1794<sup>6</sup>.

Anna Jones birth is estimated to have been about 1715-1720 based on known children's and grandchildren's ages/birth year and average life spans. She may have been born in or around Philadelphia, PA. Her father, Griffith Jones relocated her family to the Cape Fear region about 1728 from Philadelphia, PA<sup>7</sup>. She died after 1786 census date and before 1790 census date in Duplin Co., NC. William Houston's household for 1786 contains one female. There are no females in his household in the 1790 census. Note: April 16, 1805

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<sup>1</sup> Transcribed and indexed by Mrs Alvaretta Kenan Register, State Census of NC 1784 - 1787, 2nd Edition Revised (Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc, 1987 [originally published in 1971]), Capt Hubbard's District.

<sup>2</sup> "Family of Dr. William Houston, by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville*) *Kenansville Duplin Times*, January 30, 1941.

<sup>3</sup> "Our Yesterdays by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville*) *Kenansville Duplin Times*, March 31, 1938.

<sup>4</sup> "Griffith Jones, Esquire" Essay by Dr. Randall Doshier, Ph.D.

<sup>5</sup> "Last Will & Testament of Griffith Jones", Bladen County Wills 1766-1892, pp 514, 515, 516, 517 (NC Archives)

<sup>6</sup> New Hanover Co, NC, Estate Records, NC Archives, Raleigh, NC. -File: William Houston, 1792.

<sup>7</sup> "Three New Families in North Carolina Re: Land Along the Cape Fear, 1734/5", North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal, Vol 11, No 1, Feb, 1985, pp 14-15, abstracted by Ransom McBride.

in Duplin County, NC. Administration of the Estate of Anna Houston was granted Frederick Sowell who gave bond of 500 pounds<sup>8</sup>. Some genealogy researchers have shown 1805 as her year of death based on this action. Due to her absence in the 1790 census, I am not convinced that this administration is for Anna Jones Houston. Further question is raised by the fact Frederick Sowell was administrator and not one of the sons or grandsons of Anna Jones Houston, particularly since they had acted in that capacity in the past for other close family members. More research and further proof is necessary to determine the identity of the deceased in the 1805 probate proceedings.

**In researching the family of Dr. William Houston and Anna Jones Houston, I found the following children:**

1. **Samuel Houston [DAR Ancestor #A057763]** (Patriot) born about 1740<sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> in New Hanover County, NC. (later to become Duplin County) He may also have been a Revolutionary War Veteran serving in the North Carolina Militia<sup>11</sup>. His current status with DAR shows him as being a Patriot for service and signing an Oath of Allegiance not military service. He was married to Elizabeth Hubbard<sup>12</sup> (possibly a sister of Captain William Hubbard who married Samuel's sister) Francis Irene Lambeth, DAR National No. 117860, whose application for membership was approved July 12, 1915, states her Patriot ancestor, Samuel Houston was born 1735 in VA. She also states his father was Dr. Samuel Houston from Ireland. I believe her application to be in error as far as her Patriot's birth date, state of birth, and the first name of his father. There is no doubt that her Patriot and Samuel Houston of Duplin County are one and the same person. Although Samuel is not named as a child by A. T. Outlaw in his articles there is strong evidence to suggest he was the oldest son of Dr. William Houston. Samuel was Administrator of his deceased father's estate<sup>13</sup>. It would have followed custom to appoint the oldest son as administrator. He was the census taker/enumerator for Captain Hubbard's Company/District in the 1786 Census. He is shown in that census living next door to Henry (brother) and in close proximity to Dr. William Houston (father) and Edward Houston (brother)<sup>14</sup>. Many of our ancestors thought we were related to Gen. Sam Houston, Gov. of Tennessee, President of the Republic of Texas, friend of Andrew Jackson and later Governor of the State of Texas. This has been disproved through DNA testing. We are not part of the Virginia Houston clan. I believe many other researchers have made

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<sup>8</sup> McEachern, Leora H., Duplin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Abstract of Minutes, 1803-1805, Part 6., Duplin County Historical Society, Rose Hill, NC, 1984, page 74

<sup>9</sup> DAR Patriot Index (Washington DC, 1966), Pg 167.

<sup>10</sup> James Sprunt, *Chronicles of Cape Fear 1660-1916*, Second Edition (Wilmington, NC: Raleigh - Edwards & Broughton Printing Co., 1916), Page 103 - Footnote 1.

<sup>11</sup> "Revolutionary War Records of Duplin-Sampson Counties." By Virginia and Oscar Bizzell c1997 – Private Samuel Houston, NC Militia.

<sup>12</sup> DAR Patriot Index (Washington DC, 1966), Pg 167.

<sup>13</sup> New Hanover Co, NC, Estate Records, NC Archives, Raleigh, NC. . -File: William Houston, 1792

<sup>14</sup> Transcribed and indexed by Mrs Alvaretta Kenan Register, State Census of NC 1784 - 1787, 2nd Edition Revised (Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc, 1987 [originally published in 1971]), Capt Hubbard's District.

the same error due to reliance on Lambeth's and others early DAR record and have excluded Samuel as a member of the Dr. William Houston family. We are in the process of recruiting volunteers from each son's descendants to participate in our Houston DNA surname study to prove up each of the family lines including Samuel's.

Written evidence of the connection between Dr. William Houston and Mrs. Lambeth's Patriot is contained in a footnote on Page 103 of "The Chronicles of Cape Fear written by James Sprunt. The footnote is from notes by J. O. Carr. James Sprunt was quoting excerpts from a speech about Dr. William Houston, presented to Colonial Dames in 1915 by Mr. Carr. The footnote is in error for the most part, probably because he (J. O. Carr) was going back after the fact and the interview with the family of Mrs. George Carroll was not fresh in his mind. Deciphering his own notes with so many same name individuals was evidently even confusing for him. I believe this footnote together with the errors on Mrs. Lambeth's application have presented much confusion for the descendants of this Samuel Houston (Patriot).

Mrs. George Carroll, a/k/a Mary White Houston and the siblings mentioned in the footnote were the children of Samuel J. Houston (1-26-1803 – 2/24/1855) who was the son of John Houston (1757-1848) who was the son of Samuel Houston the Patriot (Mrs. Lambeth's ancestor) who was the son of Dr. William Houston. Another interesting fact is one of the siblings mentioned in the footnote is Mrs. J. N. Stallings (a/k/a Elizabeth Catherine Houston), mother of Francis Irene Stallings Lambeth. John Houston had a younger brother also named Samuel. Although it is possible one of the many named William Houston, grandsons may have moved on to Tennessee, Dr. William Houston died in or near Sarecta as evidenced in the administration of his estate in 1792. All of the evidence reviewed in my research is in agreement with Mrs. Lambeth's lineage shown on her DAR application, except 3 facts, Samuel the Patriot's: 1. year of birth (abt 1740); 2. State of birth (NC); and 3. the given name of his father (Dr. William).

2. **Griffith Houston [No DAR Ancestor #]** (Rev War Vet? <sup>15</sup>) was born about 1742<sup>16 17 18 19</sup> in New Hanover County, NC (later to become Duplin County). He was named in his grandfather's (Squire Griffith Jones) will along with one other cousin also named after him<sup>20 21</sup>. He was married to Ann Martha

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<sup>15</sup> "Revolutionary War Records of Duplin-Sampson Counties." By Virginia and Oscar Bizzell c1997 – Private Grifford? Houston, NC Militia.

<sup>16</sup> Transcribed and indexed by Mrs Alvaretta Kenan Register, State Census of NC 1784 - 1787, 2nd Edition Revised (Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc, 1987 [originally published in 1971]), Capt Hubbard's District.

<sup>17</sup> 1790 Census Duplin Co, NC, NARA Film M637-7, pg 373.

<sup>18</sup> "Our Yesterdays by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville*) *Kenansville Duplin Times*, March 31, 1938.

<sup>19</sup> "Family of Dr. William Houston, by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville*) *Kenansville Duplin Times*, January 30, 1941.

<sup>20</sup> "Griffith Jones, Esquire" Essay by Dr. Randall Doshier, Ph.D.

“Patsy”<sup>22</sup> (probably Hubbard). From naming patterns of their children, she may also have been a Hubbard. They named one of their sons, William Hubbard Houston and like Elizabeth Hubbard Houston, Samuel’s wife they also named a son John, making John Hubbard most likely the father of both Elizabeth and Ann Martha. Griffith died before 1800 census date with administration of his estate held in January 1801<sup>23</sup>. Patsy Houston was shown as head of household in the 1800 Duplin Co., NC census. Census does not show date taken.

3. **William Houston (Jr.)** born about 1744<sup>24 25 26</sup> in New Hanover County, NC (later to become Duplin County) (Note the reference at 24 may have been for William’s father with a wrong date of birth) Unsubstantiated stories say he died young, was murdered in Wilmington and brought back to Kenansville for burial. The death at a young age would account for the lack of evidence found on him. His death had to occur after 1765. He delivered the letter of resignation to Governor Tyrone in which Dr. William Houston resigned as Stamp Master for the colonial province of North Carolina, enroute to Philadelphia on business. This precludes him from being the William Houston that died in Mecklenburg in 1760, married to Rachel Nobel. This also precludes him from being one and the same person as William Ann Houston since William Ann would have only been 4 or 5 years old at the time.
  
4. **A daughter** (unknown given name) born about 1740-1755, was married to Captain William Hubbard Rev. War Vet <sup>27</sup>) of New Hanover County, NC (later to become Duplin County).<sup>28 29</sup> Her identity might be found in DAR application/lineage records, if any of Captain William Hubbard’s descendants have made application. Captain William Hubbard last appears in the 1790 Duplin Co., NC census. I have been unable to locate the family after that record. Their deaths could account for the fact they were not mentioned as purchasers in the administration of the Estate of Dr. William Houston, dec’d in 1794. I believe Captain William Hubbard to have been the brother of Elizabeth and Ann Martha.

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<sup>21</sup> “Last Will & Testament of Griffith Jones”, Bladen County Wills 1766-1892, pp 514, 515, 516, 517 (NC Archives)

<sup>22</sup> 1800 Census Duplin Co, NC, NARA Film M32-31, Pg 405.

<sup>23</sup> Duplin Co, NC, Court Minutes, 1801-1804, pg 21

<sup>24</sup> Heads of Families. at the first U.S. census. NC. By U.S. Bureau of the Census. Washington, 1908. (292p.):192

<sup>25</sup> "Family of Dr. William Houston, by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville Kenansville Duplin Times*, January 30, 1941.

<sup>26</sup> "Our Yesterdays by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville Kenansville Duplin Times*, March 31, 1938.

<sup>27</sup> "Revolutionary War Records of Duplin-Sampson Counties." By Virginia and Oscar Bizzell c1997 – Captain William Hubbard, NC Militia.

<sup>28</sup> "Our Yesterdays by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville Kenansville Duplin Times*, March 31, 1938.

<sup>29</sup> "Family of Dr. William Houston, by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville Kenansville Duplin Times*, January 30, 1941.

5. **Lt. Henry “Harry” Houston [DAR Ancestor #A057637]** (Rev War Vet – Patriot<sup>30</sup>) was born 1746<sup>31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38</sup> in New Hanover County, NC (later to become Duplin County). He married Sarah Elizabeth Miller daughter of Captain George Miller and Margaret McCulloh.<sup>39 40</sup> He died on or before August 11, 1836 in Duplin County according to the following obit published in the Raleigh Register, Raleigh, NC, “Died in Duplin County in the 89th year of his life, Henry Houston a soldier of the Revolution War. He made Lieutenant while serving his County. He was a member of the Methodist Church.” August 11, 1836. (I am unsure if the date is the publication date or date of death.)
  
6. **Edward Houston [DAR Ancestor #A057628]** (Rev War Vet – Patriot<sup>41 42</sup>) was born about 1755<sup>43 44 45 46 47 48 49</sup> Duplin County, NC. He married Mary Miller, daughter of Captain George Miller and Margaret McCulloh (sister of Henry’s wife)<sup>50 51</sup> about 1779, probably in Duplin Co., NC. He died before December 13, 1824 in Duplin Co., NC. Note: See DAR application for membership, Sherri Lynn Schrat, DAR National No. 846804, approved Oct 2006)

### Conclusion

Most of the above children with the exception of the Hubbards (moved or deceased), William, Jr. (deceased) and Griffith, were shown as purchasers in the administration of the Estate of Dr. William Houston, deceased. All of the children maintained close

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<sup>30</sup> Roster of soldiers from N.C. in the Amer. Rev. Comp. By D.A.R. of NC. Durham, NC. 1932. (12,709p.):219  
<sup>31</sup> Heads of fams. at the first U.S. census. NC. By U.S. Bureau of the Census. Washington, 1908. (292p.): 159, 190  
<sup>32</sup> "Our Yesterdays by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville*) *Kenansville Duplin Times*, March 31, 1938.  
<sup>33</sup> "Family of Dr. William Houston, by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville*) *Kenansville Duplin Times*, January 30, 1941.  
<sup>34</sup> Transcribed and indexed by Mrs Alvaretta Kenan Register, State Census of NC 1784 - 1787, 2nd Edition Revised (Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc, 1987 [originally published in 1971]), Capt Hubbard's District.  
<sup>35</sup> 1800 Census Duplin Co, NC, NARA Film M32-31, Pg 405.  
<sup>36</sup> 1810 Census Duplin Co, NC, NARA Film M252-31, Pg 694.  
<sup>37</sup> 1820 Census Duplin Co, NC, NARA Film M33-80, Pg 186-187.  
<sup>38</sup> 1830 Census Duplin Co, NC, NARA Film M19-120, Pg 167, Line 21.  
<sup>39</sup> "Our Yesterdays by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville*) *Kenansville Duplin Times*, March 31, 1938.  
<sup>40</sup> "Family of Dr. William Houston, by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville*) *Kenansville Duplin Times*, January 30, 1941.  
<sup>41</sup> Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution, p.219 ; Audit Vouchers #1334 and #1314, North Carolina Archives.  
<sup>42</sup> Roster of soldiers from NC in the Amer. Rev. Comp. By D.A.R. of NC. Durham, NC. 1932. (12,709p.):219  
<sup>43</sup> "Our Yesterdays by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville*) *Kenansville Duplin Times*, March 31, 1938.  
<sup>44</sup> "Family of Dr. William Houston, by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville*) *Kenansville Duplin Times*, January 30, 1941.  
<sup>45</sup> Transcribed and indexed by Mrs Alvaretta Kenan Register, State Census of NC 1784 - 1787, 2nd Edition Revised (Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc, 1987 [originally published in 1971]), Capt Hubbard's District.  
<sup>46</sup> 1790 Census Duplin Co, NC, NARA Film M637-7, pg 190 & 192.  
<sup>47</sup> 1800 Census Duplin Co, NC, NARA Film M32-31, Pg 431.  
<sup>48</sup> 1810 Census Duplin Co, NC, NARA Film M252-40, Pg 692.  
<sup>49</sup> 1820 Census Duplin Co, NC, NARA Film M33-80, Pg 182-183.  
<sup>50</sup> "Our Yesterdays by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville*) *Kenansville Duplin Times*, March 31, 1938.  
<sup>51</sup> "Family of Dr. William Houston, by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville*) *Kenansville Duplin Times*, January 30, 1941.

relationships during their life times. Many deed records, bond records, witness records, living proximity in census records, naming patterns of children show the close relationship of this family. I have been unable to locate a copy of his will. He may have died intestate.

We have had 3 participants from 2 different son's descendants of Edward Houston. We have DNA evidence for that line. We should eventually be able to prove up the other male lines of Dr. William Houston and Anna Jones as more family is found to participate in our surname study. It is my intention to donate a final report with the results of DNA tests once we have the other sons proved or disproved with permission of the participants to DAR for future use. I hope the evidence furnished herein is sufficient to establish the 6 individuals cited above as children of Dr. William Houston.

Although some genealogy studies reviewed have referenced DAR records that show William Ann Houston and George Eustace Houston as children of Dr. William Houston and Anna Jones, I believe them to be in error. In researching census data, comparing ages, number and gender of children, these two are probably grandsons and not sons of Dr. William Houston. William Ann Houston is most likely the son of Samuel Houston the Patriot. George Eustace Houston is shown in the two Duplin Times newspaper articles as the son of Henry Houston<sup>52</sup> <sup>53</sup>. I have not included them as children for this reason.

Out of all the children we only have a specific birth year for Henry. I have assigned a chronological birth order to the children based on the order of traditional naming patterns, which I firmly believe Dr. William Houston and his wife Anna Jones Houston followed. Samuel, the oldest should have been named after William's father; The second son, Griffith after Anna's father; The third son William, after Dr. William; The fourth son Henry, born in 1746, named after Dr. William's oldest brother or quite possibly his Uncle Henry McCulloh; and the fifth son Edward, after Anna's uncle (she had no brothers according to her father's Will) Edward Jones. I have been unable to identify the name of the daughter that married Captain William Hubbard. She was probably named for Anna's mother but she is a mystery as well, at this point in time.

Some family histories cite Margaret McRee as the mother of Anna Jones. I have found no evidence or proof of her identity and believe it comes from mis-reading the Last Will & Testament of Griffith Jones. The Margaret McRee named in the will is Anna's sister not her mother. If it is an educated guess based on naming pattern, McRee is the sister's married name and not a middle name.

Final notes:

A copy of this essay together with digital copies of referenced source material can be found on line at <http://www.sherrisweb.com/DrHoustonResource.html> This essay will be revised online with any new documentation added as discovery is made.

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<sup>52</sup> "Our Yesterdays by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville*) *Kenansville Duplin Times*, March 31, 1938.

<sup>53</sup> "Family of Dr. William Houston, by A. T. Outlaw," (*Kenansville*) *Kenansville Duplin Times*, January 30, 1941.