

Gallimore Origins

According to Elsdon C. Smith's New Dictionary of American Family Names, the surname Gallimore means "dweller at or near the foreigner's moor". Most sources agree that the Gallimore name originated on the west coast of Scotland in the eight or ninth century. During that period of history Vikings and other Scandinavian sea rovers pillaged and ravaged the coast of Britain. A number of the Norsemen elected to remain in Scotland, Ireland and England instead of returning to their native countries. They forcefully established homes, mated, and raised children. Many persons including Gallimore descendants and those living along the coast of Scotland, Ireland, and England trace their roots to the Norsemen.

The first record of the Gallimore family name was found in Ayrshire, which is located in the Scottish English Border Ridings. Gallimore ancestral roots can be found in Strathclyde Briton before the year 1100.

During a period between 1700 and the Revolutionary war, a great many Scots and Scotch-Irish came to the American shores. Ports of disembarkation ranged from Philadelphia down to Charlestown. By this time period a large portion of the tidewater and piedmont areas had already become settled. Many of the new immigrants made their way to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains before they could find available land.

An undocumented story is told of an Indian massacre involving an entire village in Virginia in 1732, which orphaned six children named Gallimore. After hearing of an approaching band of Indians the mother and father, purported to be named John and Roxanne, hid the children, James, Ann, Samuel, Elizabeth, Elionar, and William, in a previously dug tunnel. Persons from a nearby village released the children from their hiding place after the Indians were gone. The children, having no parents, were fostered by six separate families for their care and upbringing. Records dealing with division of the children may be found in the Bristol Parish Register in the Virginia State Library.

The 1748 Tax List documents the existence of William, John, James, and David Gallimore in the Virginia counties of Lunenburg and Charlotte. Whether William and James are two of the orphaned children is not clear. Land sale records of 1772 and 1773 indicate that William Gallimore and his wife, Mary sold land as did James Gallimore and his wife, Milly.

A confirmed link between our ancestor, James Gallimore, born 1765 in Randolph County, North Carolina and the Virginia Gallimore families is difficult to establish since evidence indicates that William and Mary Gallimore remained in Virginia and James and Milly Gallimore settled in Granville County, North Carolina. Also, James' 1765 birthdate is prior to the dates of the land sale records previously described. However, given the unusual nature of the Gallimore name, and the common practice of immigrants spreading southward from Virginia to North Carolina during this time, there is reason to believe that a link does exist between the Gallimores of Virginia and those of Randolph and Davidson Counties of North Carolina.

James Gallimore

James Gallimore, born 1765, is our first documented ancestor. He was born in Randolph County and was very active in county politics according to the Report of the Courts of Randolph County. In the early resident files of Randolph County, James Gallimore is included on the 1785 tax list of Capt. Cark and Capt. Gray's District. James is also on the 1785 tax list of Aaron Hill. Tax lists were precursors to the Federal Censuses. It is difficult to understand why in the Census of 1790, just five years after the tax list, James was not listed in Randolph County. Coincidentally a James Gallimore was listed in Rowan (now Davidson) County. James was not listed in 1810 or 1820 in Randolph County.

James lived during the time of the Revolutionary War but was probably too young to have served. Records show three North Carolina Gallimores who served in the war. They were William (June 14, 1781), John (September 1, 1784), and James (September 6, 1775). They took their oath on the dates listed.

In 1785 or 1786 James married Elizabeth Ridge, daughter of Godfrey and Ann Ridge. Elizabeth Ridge was born in 1773. They had three sons and one daughter.

James Gallimore died in 1830 and Elizabeth Ridge Gallimore died after 1850.

Historic document included with this article:

- Copy of typed will transcription of Godfrey Ridge.

Children:

1. **James Gallimore.**
2. **John Gallimore.**
3. **Jesse Gallimore,** b. @ 1796, d. 20 Jan. 1872, m. @ 1820 Mary Harris, b. @ 1800, d. @ 1878.
4. **Margarett Gallimore,** m. 18 July 1813, Thomas Simons.

Jesse Gallimore

Jesse Gallimore was born around 1796. He lived in the Jackson Creek community of Randolph County about eleven miles west of the current city of Asheboro.

In 1811, when Jesse was about 15 years old, he was ordered by the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to work on the Salem Road from Johnsonville to Garner's Store. His overseer was Michael Farlow.

Probably around 1820, Jesse married Mary Harris, born @ 1800, the daughter of Edward Harris. Jesse and Mary had 5 children; Levi, Fannie, Elizabeth, Jane "Ginsey", and Ransom. Jane was the only child who did not marry. She took care of her father in his later years.

The 1828 tax list shows Jesse with 92 acres of land.

Jesse worked as a tax collector for Capt. Haman Miller, Jr., tax manager for the western part of Randolph County. Jesse's youngest child, Ransom, married Haman Miller's daughter, Louisa.

According to the Randolph County General Index to Real Estate Conveyances, on the following page, Jesse Gallimore deeded 106 acres of land to his son, Ransom.

Jesse Gallimore died on 20 January 1872 and is buried at Jackson Creek Baptist Church. His estate records show his burial clothing cost \$1.90 and his coffin cost \$ 5.00. After Jesse Gallimore's death, in the settlement of his estate, Jane was given \$600.00 for working and waiting of her father. This was a sum of \$ 50.00 per year for 12 years commencing in January, 1860 and ending 20 January 1872. Mary Harris Gallimore died around 1878.

Historic documents included with this article are as follows:

- Copy of original Randolph County Real Estate Conveyances
- Copy of original handwritten Estate Settlement of Jesse Gallimore
- Typed copy of Estate Settlement of Jesse Gallimore
- Copy of original plat of land division to heirs

Children:

1. **Levi Gallimore**, m. 11 March 1847, Betsy Hulin.
2. **Fannie Gallimore**, m. John Franklin Hulin.
3. **Elizabeth (Lizzie) Gallimore**, m. 16 Aug. 1845, Seth Laughlin.
4. **Jane (Ginsey) Gallimore**, d. 1882.
5. **Ransom Harrison Gallimore**, b. 11 May 1828, d. 25 Mar 1884, m. 17 April 1851, Louisa Miller, b. 8 March 1828, d. 11 Dec. 1918.

Ransom Harrison Gallimore

Ransom Harrison Gallimore was born on 11 May 1828 in the Jackson Creek area of Randolph County. Ransom was the last of five children born to Jesse and Mary Harris Gallimore.

On 17 April 1851 Ransom married Louisa Miller, daughter of Haman Miller, Jr. and Martha "Patsy" Williams. Louisa was born 8 March 1828.

Ransom acquired 106 acres of land from his father, Jesse Gallimore, in 1857. The tract of land was midway between Jackson Creek and Piney Grove Church on the headwaters of Jackson Creek.

Besides farming, Ransom also worked in the Silver Hill Mine. The mine, a bustling privately owned business where high grade silver ore was mined became a popular place of employment for many men in the area. It was located approximately 12 miles southeast of Lexington. Workers were paid from 57 ½ cents to \$ 1.15 ½ per day for work in the mine. Pay rosters for the months of August 1857 and October 1857 following this article show that Ransom Gallimore earned 57 ½ cents for a day's work in the Silver Hill Mine.

Ransom and Louisa had six children, Martha, Jessie, William Emsley, Charity, Wyatt and Malinda were born before he enlisted in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

He enlisted at Camp Holmes on 13 July 1863. While a Private in Co. C, 30th Regiment, he was captured at Hekky's Ford, Virginia on 7 November 1863 and confined at Point Lookout, Maryland on 11 November 1863. After about 10 months, Ransom was paroled at Point Lookout on or about 18 September 1864 and transferred to Varina, Virginia where he was received on 22 September 1864 for exchange. He spent 11 days in a hospital at Richmond, Virginia then was furloughed for sixty days on 4 October 1864. When he returned home he had lost so much weight his family did not recognize him. Ransom elected not to return to the war after his furlough and in January 1865 he was court martialled and an order was issued that he be arrested or shot for desertion. However, when the war was over in April 1865 the order was nullified.

It has been stated that Ransom and Louisa had sixteen children. It is possible that two of the children died at childbirth since records of only fourteen children can be found. Of the fourteen children that lived, seven were girls and seven were boys. This included a set of twins, Celia and Mary Polly.

In March of 1884 Ransom was attending church when he became seriously ill. He was taken to the nearest house to the church where he died on 25 March 1884. He is buried at Jackson Creek Baptist Church.

According to deed records in Randolph County, Wyatt Gallimore and his wife Laura acquired the original 106 acres of land that his father, Ransom, had received from his grandfather, Jesse in 1857.

Louisa was called "big mother" by her children and grandchildren because of her size. Louisa Gallimore remarried Abol C. Yates on 6 January 1885. After Abol Yates died she lived mostly with her children, especially Wyatt Gallimore. Louisa Gallimore Yates died 11 December 1918 and is buried at Piney Grove Church.

Historic documents included with this article include the following:

- Pay Rosters for the months of August and October 1857, for Silver Hill Mine.

Children:

1. **Martha Gallimore**, b. 25 Aug. 1851, d. 30 Jan. 1901, m. H. Lafayette Crotts, b. 8 May 1847, d. 19 Aug. 1926.
2. **Jessie Gallimore**, b. @ 1852, d. 14 Aug. 1869.
3. **William Emsley Gallimore**, b. 24 April 1856, d. 16 Feb. 1921, m. 1st Miranda Gibson, b. 21 Sept. 1856, d. 6 June 1899, m. 2nd Betty E. Graves, b. 1845 d. 1931.
4. **Charity Gallimore**, b. 10 June 1858, d. 15 Aug. 1948, m. 5 Jan. 1890, General K. Kindley, b. 18 Jan. 1867, d. 5 Nov. 1925.
5. **Wyatt Gallimore**, b. 16 Jan. 1859, d. 12 May 1928, m. 24 Oct. 1893, Laura Bain Webb, b. 26 Nov. 1870, d. 13 July 1954.
6. **Malinda Catherine "Cass" Gallimore**, b. 25 Aug. 1860, d. 1930, m. 1st Thomas Ridge, m. 2nd Wilt Ridge.
7. **Celia Gallimore**, b. 31 March 1864, d. 11 Oct. 1947, m. 1899, Martin Wall, b. 27 June 1872, d. 6 July 1918.
8. **Mary Polly Gallimore**, b. 31 March 1864, d. 21 Nov. 1927, m. @ 1882, Thomas Pierce, b. 22 March 1856, d. 7 Jan. 1935.
9. **Zilla Ann "Nannie" Gallimore**, b. May 1866, d. 24 March 1917, m. Jack Goins, d. 1911.
10. **Margaret Gallimore**, b. 27 March 1867, d. 5 Feb. 1902, m. 1885, Milt Lackey, b. 1869, d. 1935.
11. **Benjamin Gallimore**, b. before 1870, d. before 1880.
12. **John R. Gallimore**, b. @ 1872, d. 16 Oct. 1934, m. Emma Lambeth, b. 15 April 1869, d. 15 Feb. 1950.
13. **Frank H. Gallimore**, b. 13 Sept. 1875, d. 2 Feb. 1958, m. Minnie Richardson, b. 10 June 1879, d. 15 Nov. 1968.
14. **James "Jim" Alexander Gallimore**, b. 1 May 1877, d. 20 Oct. 1940, m. 15 Feb. 1898, Hattie Lee Myers, b. 28 March 1881, d. 8 May 1971.

James Alexander Gallimore

James "Jim" Alexander Gallimore, born 1 May 1877, was the youngest child of Ransom Harrison Gallimore and Louisa Miller. Jim, as he was called, was born in Randolph County about thirteen years after his father had returned from the War Between the States as a private. He was only seven years old when his father died.

Jim married Hattie Lee Myers 15 February 1898. Hattie was born 28 March 1881, a daughter of Thomas "Tommy" William Myers (b. 18 Oct. 1859, d. 9 Feb. 1935) and Morrisha Lloyd. (b. 24 Nov. 1858, d. 5 Jan. 1912) and the granddaughter of Ambrose Myers (b. Jan. 1827, d. after 1900) and Elizabeth Shuler (b. 1836, d. 1913).

Their first home was near Hattie's parents, a two-room house called the Tommy House situated on what is now Mt. Zion Church Road near Highway 109 on sixty acres of land. It was at this home that their first two children, Seaph Wood and Lytle Marshall, were born.

In 1898 Jim and Hattie Gallimore purchased 115 acres from John and Cornelia Lambeth. Then around 1901 they moved to a small two or three room house on the property. This house located near the small village of Cid on what is now called Crousetown Road was birthplace to four more of their children. In 1911, they purchased an additional adjoining 207 acres from H. K. Grubb then moved into their second home on Crousetown Road, the Grubb House. Jim and Hattie's remaining six children were born during the eighteen years they lived at the Grubb House.

In 1929, Jim and Hattie Gallimore finished building their third and final home on Crousetown Road. This home is still standing today.

The older children got their schooling at Cedar Springs School which was a two room school - no grades, just reading, writing and arithmetic. It was located two miles from their home at Lick Creek. Cedar Springs School was consolidated into the Davidson County school system about 1923. Virgie, Avis, Paul and Mamie attended Denton School.

About 1913, Walters Grove Church was formed from Jackson Creek Church. Mr. Walter Grubb donated the land and Jim contributed generously to the cost of building the church. Jim Gallimore signed the note for borrowed funds. Jim, Hattie and their children were almost a fixture in the church. Daughter Virgie was elected secretary at about 11 or 12 and kept this position for decades.

Jim Gallimore operated a sawmill and a dairy. He also farmed, raised pigs and started a retail fertilizer business. His business, located on Gray Street near Randolph Street in Thomasville, mainly consisted of selling fertilizer and seed to farmers all over the county. Profits were a modest ten cents on each bag sold. His sons, Seaph, Lytle, Carl and Marvin assisted their father in this business.

Jim died 20 October 1940. At his death there were still three children unmarried, Wade, Paul and Mamie. Shortly after his death all property except the homeplace was sold and divided according to his will. Hattie continue to run the dairy farm with the assistance of their son-in-law Millard Surratt and son Paul. Millard sold his interest to Paul and Hattie after a few years. They continued to operate the dairy farm for many years.

Hattie Gallimore was a very humble person who believed in God. She was a mother devoted to raising her twelve children in a Christian home. In addition to her own, she also assisted in raising other children – nieces and nephews. She was a dedicated Christian in her life of ninety years.

Hattie Gallimore died 8 May 1971. Jim and Hattie are both buried at Walter's Grove Baptist Church.

Children:

1. **Seaph Wood Gallimore**, b. 20 Feb. 1899, d. 22 Jan. 1973, m. 22 Dec. 1920, Mary Alice Snider, b. 14 Sept. 1901, d. 14 Oct. 1978.
2. **Lytle Marshall Gallimore**, b. 11 Jan. 1901, d. 23 Oct. 1970, m. 21 July 1924, Sallie Belle Lambeth, b. 7 Mar. 1908.
3. **Ora Frances Gallimore**, b. 3 Jan. 1903, d. 1 June 1919.
4. **Carl Thomas Gallimore**, b. 20 Aug. 1905, d. 2 June 1971, m. 3 June 1925, Ocia Nance, b. 28 Feb. 1908, d. 28 Nov. 1989.
5. **Myrtle Gallimore**, b. 16 Dec. 1907, m. Homer Hughes, b. 16 Feb. 1902, d. 22 March 1972.
6. **Marvin Vestel Gallimore**, b. 10 March 1910, d. 18 March 1979, m. 23 Dec. 1931, Hilda Garner, b. 25 May 1911.
7. **Earl Reed Gallimore**, b. 3 Sept. 1912, d. 16 Jan. 1915.
8. **Wade Phillip Gallimore**, b. 1 April 1915, d. 5 April 1987.
9. **Virgie Louise Gallimore**, b. ___ Aug. 1917, m. John Yates, b. 22 June 1912, b. 3 April 1974.
10. **Avis Marie Gallimore**, b. 22 Feb. 1920, m. Millard Surratt, b. 17 Nov. 1916.
11. **Paul James Gallimore**, b. 13 Feb. 1923, m. Marjorie Belle Crouse, b. 17 July 1924.
12. **Mamie Lee Gallimore**, b. 25 July 1925, m. David A. Surratt, b. 10 April 1915, d. 7 Aug. 1987.



Hattie and Jim Gallimore



Left To Right: Paul Gallimore, Wade Gallimore, Avis Surratt, Marvin Gallimore, Virgie Yates, Myrtle Hughes, Carl Gallimore, Hattie Gallimore, Lytle Gallimore, Mamie Surratt, Seaph Gallimore