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The son of William Blackledge and Mary Duffield Blackledge was born in Bucks County, PA, in 1707. He married 15 April 1730 to Elizabeth Randall by a New Jersey license. Shortly after his marriage he and his family became affiliated with the Richland Monthly Meeting of Friends. He settled in Lower Dublin Township, Bucks County, where he patented a tract of land and later purchased additional land from Thomas Banks. Part of his land was patented to him by the Penns in 1773. From 1779 to 1787 he was taxed on 200 acres of land in Lower Dublin Township. He was a tanner and was taxed for a still in 1782. He payed heavily during the Revolution for nonservice. He outlived most of his family and died on 7 December 1790 in Bucks County, PA. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Colonial Assembly in 1757.

Known children: william, Robert, Mary, Elizabeth, Thomas, and Rachel.

## WILL OF THOMAS BLACKLEDGE, SR.

To all whom these Presents may come or concern, be it known that I, Thomas Blackledge, of Lower Milford township, Bucks County and the State of Pennsylvania, tanner, being weak in body but of perfect mind and memory blessed be god for the same, do this eighteenth day of February in the year of our Lord 1790, make and put in writing this my last will and testament in the manner following:

First: It is my will that all my just debts and funeral expences be punctually paid by my executors hereinafter named, out of my personal estate.

Second: I give and bequeath unto my grandson Thomas Blackledge, son of Robert Blackledge, all my stock of creatures of every kind and all my household goods and farming utensils with all the hay and grain on the said place. Likewise I give and bequeath unto my grandson Thomas Blackledge Jr. all that tract of land whereon I now live, with all the buildings and improvements thereunto belonging containing ninety-six acres and forty-four perches and allowance of six pot and c which was patented to me by the late proprietor of Pennsylvania by virtue of a warrant dated the sixth day of March A. D. 1773, together also with forty acres of land to be taken off of the south side of that tract of one hundred and two acres of land which was patented to Thomas Banks the sixth day of October 1742: to hold the two above described tracts of land to my said

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Grandson Thomas Blackledge and to his heirs forever.

Third: I give and bequeath unto my Grandson Robert Blackledge (son of Robert Blackledge) all the remaining part of the said one hundred and two acres patented to said Thomas Banks as aforesaid containing sixty-two acres more or less, it being the same tract whereon my son Robert now lives. To hold to my grandson Robert Blackledge and to his heirs forever.

But I will and order nevertheless that my son Robert Blackledge aforesaid shall have the privilege of living on the tract he now does and occupy the said sixty two acres of land during his natural life, he paying ten shillings rent annually to his said son Robert Blackledge during his said life time.

Fourthly: I give and bequeath to my daughter-in-law Ann Blackledge my son in law John Clymer and my daughter Elizabeth Hoge, each Five Pounds.

Fifth: I give and bequeath to my two grand-daughters, towit, Elizabeth Burson and Rachael Roberts the sum of one-hundred Pounds each.

Sixth: I give and bequeath unto my grand-daughter Mary Williams, daughter of my son, Thomas Blackledge, the sum of one-hundred Pounds.

Seventh: I give and bequeath to my grandson William Blackledge, son of said Thomas Blackledge, the sum of sixty Pounds.

Eighth: I give and bequeath to my grandson Thomas Hoge, son of my daughter Elizabeth Hoge, the sum of sixty Pounds.

Ninth: I give to my grand-daughter Ann Hoge daughter of same, the sum of forty Pounds.

Tenth: I give and bequeath unto my grandson Robert Blackledge, the aforesaid, the sum of one-hundred Pounds.

Eleventh: I give and bequeath all the remainder of my estate to my son Robert Blackledge.

Lastly I constitute and appoint my son Robert Blackledge and my grandson Jerimiah Williams to be the executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills and testaments made by me declaring this and this only to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto sit my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Thomas Blackledge (Seal)

Enoch Blackledge

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Enoch Blackledge, son of Thomas Blackledge Jr., was born in Bucks County, PA on 1 March 1759 and died in Greene County, PA on 23 July, 1842. His will was made on 26 July, 1830 and is on file in Greene County. It shows that most of his children moved to Ohio. The record of the birth of Enoch's children was copied from his old skin-covered Bible. Enoch married Sarah Rice.

Known Children

Mary: living in Middleton Township, Columbiana County, Ohio, in 1859.

Thomas: settled first in Ohio and later moved to Iowa. His daughter Maryanne Bearer settled in Elkhart, Indiana.

John: settled first in Ohio and later moved to California, leaving all his children settled in Pike County, Illinois.

Margaret: moved to Columbiana County, Ohio.

William: settled in Carroll County, Ohio.

Martha: remained in Greene County, PA

Levi: settled on the home farm in Greene County, PA. He and his wife are buried in Stockton Cemetery. His son, Stiers, inherited the family farm.

Enoch: died in childhood.

James: settled in Carroll County, Ohio.



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BENJAMIN BLACKLEDGE

The oldest son of William was a tanner in Lower Dublin Township, Bucks County, PA. He moved to Johnson County, North Carolina in 1758. He was joined by his son Richard. Benjamin married 26 December 1726 to Sarah Philpot at Christs Church in Philadelphia, PA. Little is known about this family.

Known children: Richard



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Elizabeth Blackledge Burson

Elizabeth, oldest daughter of Thomas Blackledge, Jr., married and came west with her parents, settling on adjoining land. She was born in 1758 in Bucks County, PA. On 23 March, 1777, at the Tohicken Reformed Church, she married Edward Burson, son of James and Sarah Price Burson. Two of their sons served as judges of Greene County-- Thomas and Isaac. Elizabeth lived to be 94 years old and left many descendants in Greene County.





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WILLIAM BLACKLEDGE

Willaim Blackledge, the first American ancestor of the Blackledge family, came from England in 1682 and a short time later purchased land consisting of 270 acres on the bank of the Neshaminy Creek in Bucks County, PA. He married Mary Duffield, a daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Watt/Watts. He died in Bucks County intestate. Sometime prior to his death in 1718 William transferred his real estate to his father-in-law, who in turn conveyed the joint holdings in entail to Benjamin Blackledge, William's oldest son, and to his male heirs forever.

William's known children: Benjamin, Thomas, Robert, and John.

*Marilee Hagness  
3916 Bramble Road  
Anniston, AL 36201*



Thomas was born in Bucks County, PA in 1737 to Thomas and Elizabeth Randall Blackledge. On April 11th or 19th, 1758 he married Margaret Wright at the Richland Monthly Meeting. He served as sheriff of Bucks County. In 1757 he was a member of the Pennsylvania Colonial Assembly from Bucks County. Several of his letters are found in the Pennsylvania Archives, including a letter of petition to the Assembly asking for relief from Indian outrages. Some time between 1778 and 1782 he moved with his family, except Mary, to a tract near the mouth of Ten Mile Creek in Washington, now Greene, county where he and his son-in-law, Edward Burson, built their homes and helped tame the wilderness. Thomas was registered as from Virginia in 1767 when the poll was made in 1773, and paid in full twenty shillings Tax, set on personal property. He died on his homestead in 1787 and his will is on file in Washington County. Margaret Blackledge, his wife, died in 1819 and her will is on file in Greene County. The property they left in Greene County remained in the hands of their descendants for many years. Being Quakers no markers are to be found to show where they are buried, but it is supposed they are buried in the Stocton Cemetery where others of the family are buried.

Thomas Blackledge's will was made on June 23, 1786 and is found in Washington County, PA Will Book No. 1, page 77. Margaret's will is in Greene County, PA Will Book No. 1, page 193.

Known Children: Enoch, William, Thomas, Levi, Abraham, Isaac, James, Mary, Elizabeth, Martha, and Margaret. Margaret died in youth, James and Abraham were never married, and William and Isaac died without issue.

#### THOMAS BLACKLEDGE WILL

In the name of God, Amen, I, Thomas Blackledge senior of Washington County, Pennsylvania being through the abundance mercy and goodness of God though weak in body yet of a sound and perfect understanding and memory do constitute this my last will and testament and humbly bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my maker, next I give my body to the earth from whence it was taken, as for my burial, I desire it may be decent without pomp at the discretion of my dear wife who I doubt not will manage with all requisite prudence, as to my worldly estate, I will and positively order that all my just

debts be paid and funeral expences discharged.

Item 1. I give and bequeath to my dear wife Margaret my bed and bedding and all her wearing apparel, also I give her as long as she shall remain my widow, the priveledge of being mistress of the house and plantation where I now live together with the of all the furniture, tools and farming utensils to the said house and plantation now belonging, with the oversight of all domestick rules and business. I also give to my said dear wife Margaret two milch cows for her own use with their increases to dispose of at her decease or at any other period as she shall think or judge proper, as also a horse to work and ride and to be her own lawful property and to dispose of at her pleasure; It is also my desire that all my children as yet unmarried shall live on the plantation with their mother until the time of their several marriages and I also positively order that no division or several distribution shall be made until my youngest child shall arive to lawful age.

Item,-I order that in case my said wife shall survive the time above mentioned for a division, that then my sons hereinafter mentioned shall support my said wife Margaret and maintain her during her life, furnishing her and accomadating her with a decent house, fire wood, twelve bu. of Indian corn, as also her cows and horse supported for her together with onehundred weight of beef and one hundred weight of pork, the grain and meat to be delivered to her as long as she liveth, yearly and every year. I also give and bequeath to my daughter Mary, the sum of one dollar, I also give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth, the sum of ten pounds to be paid in cattle at the end of four years after my decease.

Item,-I give and bequeath to my other two daughters, Martha and Margaret, for each of them the sum of twenty five pounds at the time of settlement in cattle or household furniture.

Item,-I also give and bequeath all the rest, remainder, and residue of my estate, in lands, goods, and chattells whatsoever unto my sons among them to be equally divided at the time of settlement, to wit, Enoch, William, Thomas, Levi, Abraham, Isaac, James, to them and their heirs forever. I also order that my son Enoch shall not be disturbed in his bounds, where he now lives until the time of the above settlement, or minority of the younger children, at which time he shall pay to the other six sons, or their heirs the sum of 25 pounds for the above priveledge, in



cattle or produce at market price: and lastly I do hereby nominate, ordain, constitute and appoint two of my sons, towit, Enoch and William the sole executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this 23rd day of June, in the year of our Lord 1786.

(Seal) Thomas Blackledge

Witnesses. Rich McMullen, Amos Melner, Thomas Strawhen.

Probated 11 Jan., 1788

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The first consultation held by Jefferson and others, on the subject of Independence, was held at the home of Edward Duffield, at the North-west corner of Fifth and Market Streets, Philadelphia. Benjamin Duffield served on the Assembly in the years 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715. His service with the Assembly is on record on page 735 of "THE THREE ORIGINAL COUNTIES"

Following is copied from "Tenmile Country and It's Pioneer Families" by Howard L. Leckey, Historian.

William Blackledge, first American ancestor of the Blackledge Family, came from England about 1682, and a short time later purchased a tract of land on the west bank of the Neshaminy, in Southampton Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. William Blackledge married a daughter of Benjamin Duffield (this statement is from Clarence Robert's book ... "Early Friends Families of Upper Bucks County".) and some time prior to his death in 1718 transferred his real estate to his father-in-law, who in turn conveyed the joint holdings in entail to Benjamin Blackledge, eldest son of William, and to his male heirs forever. This Benjamin Blackledge, eldest son of William, tanner in Lower Dublin Township, Bucks County, removed to Johnson County, North Carolina in 1758 and almost immediately was joined by his son Richard Blackledge of Craven County, in a deed to Samuel Swift for the purpose of docking the entail, in which they were Successful, and Richard made a conveyence in fee.

Thomas Blackledge Sr. son of William Blackledge, was born in Bucks County about 1707. At the time of his marriage he settled in Lower Milford Township, taking up a tract of land by warrant, and adding to it by purchase of a tract from Thomas Banks. He



took an active part in Bucks County politics and was elected sheriff of the county. In 1757 he was elected to the Colonial Assembly. (Penna. Archives Series VI, Vol. 11, pp 90-92) During the year he was one of a group of persons that appealed to the Assembly for relief from Indian depredations. He took no part in the Revolution, paying heavily for non service. He was a tanner and distiller by trade as shown by tax lists. The Blackledge Family were not originally Quakers, but Thomas and his family became affiliated with Richland Monthly Meeting and continued in that faith. Having out lived most of his children, Thomas Blackledge by a will made February 18, 1790, disposed of his large estate, mostly among his grand-children. He died in Lower Milford Township on December 7, 1790. His wife was Elizabeth Randell, whom he married by New Jersey License on April 15, 1730.