

THE SEBASTIANS

SEBASTIAN, originally a Greek name meaning "majestic" was adopted very early by the Italians, French and Spanish; later by the English speaking peoples. As an English name, Sebastian can be traced back to the beginning of the 17th Century. It owes its popularity to Saint Sebastian, a Christian martyr, who was born at Narbonne in Gaul in the 3rd Century and died about 288 A.D., at 33 years of age. He was a captain in the guard of Emperor Diocletian's reign. He was said to have effected many secret conversions before the king discovered that he was a Christian. At the king's orders, he was shot full of arrows and left to die but a Christian woman nurse him back to health. He again fearlessly confronted the emperor and was this time beaten to death with clubs. After his death, he became a Christian martyr and January 20 was set as a feast day in his memory.

There were Sebastian immigrants from England, France, Spain, Germany, Prussia, and probably Italy. We believe our ancestors came from England. Anthony Sebastian was transported from England to Maryland in 1649 and Stephen Sebastian in 1675. They got land patents in southern Maryland and as these families multiplied, they migrated down into upper Virginia. We think we are descendents of either Anthony or Stephen.

In Fairfax County, Virginia, in the early 1700's there were several families of Sebastians. First names used by them were Benjamin, Charles, Joseph, Issac, Lewis, and William, to name several. These names have been passed down in the Sebastian families to the present day.

Our ancestor, BENJAMIN SEBASTIAN, was born about 1740 in Virginia and came with his family to Wilkes County about 1775. He got a land patent in 1778 from the State of North Carolina on 150 acres of land located on Sebastian Branch and Haymeadow Branch, the waters of Mulberry. He built his house on a knoll of the present William F. Alexander farm, near Hays, N. C., now owned by Miss Lenna Alexander, also one of his descendents. (BENJAMIN SEBASTIAN is the ancestor of all Sebastians in Wilkes Co.)

There was a Lewis Sebastian living next door to Benjamin in 1787. We believe this was Benjamin Sebastian's brother. He was listed on the North Carolina Census of 1787 and the first Federal census which was taken in 1790; however, he removed to Kentucky and was listed there in the census in 1800.

We think Lewis Sebastian had sons named Joseph, who married Nancy Whitaker and Samuel, who married Sarah Carlin. There is a Joseph Burt Sebastian born in 1889 in Tennessee, now living in Detroit, Michigan, who is a descendent of Joseph and Nancy Whitaker Sebastian. We think William King Sebastian, the first U. S. Senator from Arkansas, was a son of Samuel and Sarah Carlin Sebastian. We have nothing further on this family.

OUR ANCESTOR, BENJAMIN SEBASTIAN:

Our ancestor, Benjamin Sebastian, as has been stated earlier, was born in Virginia about 1740 and died in Wilkes County, North Carolina in 1819. We have searched many records but so far have been unable to find who his wife was or when she died. There is a Barker - Chandler - Alexander connection with the Sebastian family and his wife could have been either of these. His children were: I. William, II. Elisha, III. Elijah, IV. John, V. Hezekiah, VI. Mary, and VII. Nancy. We think these last two girls are daughters of Benjamin, also there were 2 or 3 more girls, possibly one named Susannah and others.

I. William Sebastian, son of Benjamin, was born in Virginia about 1768 and died on his farm at Haymeadow in the 1840's. He married Elizabeth Carter (born in Virginia about 1775 and died at Haymeadow in 1866). She was the daughter of Henry Carter, Revolutionary soldier who with his wife, Millinder and family lived at the mouth of Rock Creek at the north side of the Yadkin River.

Elizabeth Carter Sebastian was an early member of old Mulberry Baptist Church, a charter member of Cross Roads Baptist Church and a charter member of Zion Baptist Church - established in 1848. She remained a member of Zion until her death.

William Sebastian was a prominent farmer of the Haymeadow section of Wilkes County. He served on juries, signed bonds and was a constable and officer of the court before 1800. He also got permission from the court to put up a toll gate on his farm where the road crossed going from Traphill to Wilkesboro.

William and Elizabeth Carter Sebastian's children were:

1. Benjamin - born in Wilkes County in 1806 - died in Virginia in 1872. He married Elizabeth Adams (born 1809 - died 1884) the daughter of Charles and Nancy Stamper Adams of Wilkes County. He moved with his family to Grayson County, Virginia before the Civil War and left descendants - Miss Ruth Sebastian and Steve Sebastian of Volney, Virginia, and others.

2. Henry Sebastian, born about 1803, lived in Wilkes County in 1830, had 4 children, but we have no record of where he went.

3. Wesley Sebastian - Born 1795 - married Nancy Pennington, lived in Kentucky and Missouri and left descendents.
4. Nancy Sebastian - born 1804, married David Call and lived near Hays, N. C. Some of her descendents are Flossie, Zora and Claude Brewer of Hays.
5. Sallie Sebastian - Born about 1812, married William Brown. Had a son named Henry but have nothing further on them.
6. Ellen Sebastian - Born about 1802, married a Turner. We have nothing further on them.
7. Lewis Sebastian - born in 1808 in Wilkes County. He was a Justice of the Peace, a surveyor, and served on the Board of County Commissioners. He was killed December 2, 1864 on the Bell Mountain of the Blue Ridge Mountains. He, with a band of his neighbors were fighting a gang of looters and robbers from Alleghany County. Lewis married Rachel Adams (born 1809 - Died 1893). She was the daughter of Charles and Nancy Stamper Adams of Haymeadow. To this union were born 9 children:
 - A. Elizabeth Emily - Born 1835 - married Frances Hutchison
 - B. Henry C "Dock" - Born 1836 - married Maro Hall
 - C. William Gray - Born 1839 - married Franky Shumate
 - D. Martin H. - born 1841 - moved west after Civil War.
 - E. Susan - born 1842 - married J. M. Harrold
 - F. Charles F. - Born 1845 - Killed by robbers and looters December 2, 1864.
 - G. Alexander P. - Born 1847 - Died 1854.
 - H. Sarah - Born 1849 - married Eli Absher.
 - F. Samuel - Born 1852 - married Mary Blackburn.
8. William Sebastian, Jr., Born 1814, died December 2, 1864 - killed by robbers and looters. He married Eliza Grimes, daughter of the Rev. Adam Grimes, a Lutheran minister. His wife was Eada. William and Eliza's Children were:
 - A. Lewis W. - born 1845 - Died 1929. Married Nancy Elledge
 - B. Sarah - Born 1847 - Died 1934. Married James Elledge.
 - C. Zachery T. - Born 1848 - Died 1906. Married Caroline Shepherd.
 - D. Elizabeth - Born 1849.
 - E. William - Born 1851 (We know nothing further of him.)
 - F. Rev. Eli - Born 1853 - Died 1919. Married Mary C. Wood.
 - G. John Wesley - Born 1854 - Died 1913. Married Elizabeth Wyatt.
 - H. Henry C. - Born 1858. Married Martha Salmons.
 - I. Elijah - Born 1861 - Died 1930. Married America Adams.

II. Elisha Sebastian - Born 1770 in Virginia, married Nier Anderson, daughter of Captain Anderson, moved to Whitfield County, Georgia. Died in the 1860's. A descendent of his is C. P. Sebastian of Ardmore, Oklahoma and his son, Colonel Henry A. Sebastian of Abilene, Texas.

III. Elijah Sebastian - Born in Virginia in 1772, married first time Phebe Brown, daughter of Walter Brown of Wilkes County, in 1801. They migrated to St. Frances County, Missouri. Phebe died about 1812, leaving a small child. Elijah married 2nd time to Sarah Kelly Dennis and reared a large family. Mrs. Pauline Sheriff of Hollis, Oklahoma is one of his descendents.

IV. John Sebastian - Born 1784 - Wilkes County, married Sarah Turner, daughter of Roger Turner, migrated to Kentucky and left descendents.

V. Hezekiah Sebastian, Born 1787 in Wilkes County - Died 1860 in Kentucky. Married first to Elizabeth Wilson and second to Rachel Bryant and left descendents.

VI. Mary Sebastian - married Jonathan Stamper, Jr. in 1801 and moved to Ashe County, North Carolina. We do not know if she had children as this was the second marriage for Jonathan, Jr.

VII. Nancy Sebastian married Jessie Stamper, a brother of Jonathan, Jr., and moved to Owens County, Kentucky. She died in Missouri and left descendents. Among them, the founder of the F. M. Stamper Food Company and Lyon J. Board of the Canal Zone.

Benjamin adopted a boy named George Alexander (changed to Sebastian), who went to Missouri and one of his descendents is the Rev. Dan Sebastian, a Baptist minister in Oklahoma.

Elijah and Phebe Brown Sebastian adopted a boy named Martin Chandler who became Martin Sebastian in Missouri. Two of his descendents are Mr. Fredo Green of Texarkana, Arkansas and Mr. Lurkey Sebastian of Dallas, Texas.