

COLLINS

First Generation

1. **Michael¹ Collins (Sr.)**, son of John Collins, was born about 1726. Michael died October 9, 1799 in Nash Co., NC. The will of John Collins dated 1749, probated 1752, Bertie Co., NC, named his son Mikell and left him 300 acres on Red Bud and Negro boy Robin; son, Michael Collins was executor.

He married **Ann Perry** in Nash Co., NC, before 1765. Ann died before 1773. He married **Elizabeth Drake** in Bute Co., NC, June 10, 1773. Elizabeth was born about 1755. Elizabeth was the daughter of James Drake and Sophia Valentine.

John Collins' will of 1749 noted some children were under age 18, but Michael (Mikell) was executor, so was at least age 21 in 1752. Michael, was willed property on Red Bud Creek in Bertie County by his father in 1749. On June 20, 1761, Michael received a Land Grant from the Earl of Granville. Listed as taxpayer in 1766 Bute Co. NC.

Michael served as juror, Bute Co. Court of Pleas & Quarter Session, February 13, 1771 and August 13, 1777. Accounts of Sheriff, James Ransom, taxes presented to August court, 1772 includes taxables for 1771 paid by Michael Collins for wolves scalps, Bute Co., NC.

Michael owned 640 acres on Sandy Creek and Red Bud dated March 16, 1778, Bute Co. NC; 50 acres on Red Bud dated June 21, 1779, Bute Co., NC, and Deed Book 5, p. 313 Nash Co. NC shows tract in possession of Michael Collins deceased January 20, 1812, lands being sold January 29, 1812 (p. 316).

It would appear that Michael Collins married the sister of his daughter's husband after the death of his first wife. He would have been about age 47 at his marriage to Elizabeth Drake. This could have been two men sharing records, but there is no death record for an older Michael Collins. This journal follows the theory that there was one Michael Collins who lived to his 70s and married at least twice.

Michael Collins (Sr.) and Ann Perry had the following child:

- + 2 i. Ruth² Collins was born November 12, 1765.

Michael Collins (Sr.) and Elizabeth Drake had the following child:

- + 3 ii. Michael Collins (Jr.) was born May 16, 1778.

Second Generation

2. **Ruth² Collins** (Michael¹) was born in Nash Co., NC November 12, 1765. Ruth died March 4, 1847. She married **Albritton Drake** in Edgecombe Co., NC, November 12, 1785. Albritton was born in Edgecombe Co., NC about 1760. Albritton was the son of James Drake and Sophia Valentine. Albritton died November 14, 1835 Muhlenberg Co., KY. He served as a Private during the Revolution (DAR Patriot Index).

NOTE: interest in the name Mosley used by Ruth and Albritton for their son, Mosley Collins Drake and by Ruth's brother, Michael Jr., for his son, Benjamin Moseley Collins.

Ruth Collins and Albritton Drake had the following children:

- + 4 i. James Perry³ Drake was born September 15, 1797 Edgecombe Co., NC, and died before 1870 KY. He married Priscilla Buell 1817 IN. He was a General during the Mexican War and served as

- Indiana's State Treasurer.
- + 5 ii. John Drake was born May 26, 1786 Edgecombe Co., NC. He died April 28, 1863. He married Elizabeth Alford February 18, 1806 Robeson Co., NC. She died September 9, 1823 Robeson Co., NC, the daughter of Sion Alford and Clarkey Mctyre (Laurie Roper).
 - 6 iii. Sophia Valentine Drake was born May 26, 1789.
 - + 7 iv. Silas Drake was born November 4, 1791 Edgecombe Co., NC, died October 7, 1858 Muhlenberg Co., KY. He married Martha Wells February 1, 1811 Muhlenberg Co., KY.
 - 8 v. Mosley Collins Drake was born May 5, 1795.
 - 9 vi. Benjamin Michael Drake was born September 11, 1800. He married Susannah Magruder.
 - 10 vii. William Drake was born December 14, 1804.
 - 11 viii. Edmond Drake was born May 21, 1807.

3. **Michael² Collins (Jr.)** (Michael¹) was born in Warren Co., NC May 16, 1778. Michael died December 1, 1856. He married **Elizabeth Drake** about 1802. Elizabeth was born December 7, 1785. Elizabeth was the daughter of Matthew Drake (Sr) and Ann Arrington. SEE DRAKE FAMILY JOURNAL. Elizabeth died July 28, 1820. He married **Mary Ann Cottrell** December 23, 1823. Mary was born November 16, 1802. Mary died February 17, 1879. Mary was the daughter of Thomas and Mary Cottrell. (Marriage, dates of birth & death from notes of David Collins.) He's shown in the Nash Co. census in 1810 and 1820; Warren Co. census of 1830, 1840 and 1850. He is listed in Warren County records as Registrar of Deeds in 1836.

1850 census, Nutbush Dist., Warren Co., NC (p.20): Michael Collins, age 72, born NC, farmer, value of real estate \$10,000; Mary 47; Mary G. 22; Amanda C. 20; Michael 12; Benjamin 9; James S. 7; Mary Brogden 49. He was living between William & Lucy Paschall and Caswell Drake.

According to the notes of David Collins, Michael was a planter and slave owner at Ridgeway, Warren County. (Ridgeway is located on R158 between Norlina and Manson) In addition to his home plantation "Pleasant Hill," he owned a 370 acre plantation in Aspen Grove, the Nutbush mill and 704 acres on Nutbush Creek, plus Ridgeway mill and 154 acres in Ridgeway. "Pleasant Hill" was built in 1790 and the date is inscribed in the chimney. It was built by the Hawkins family and purchased by Michael Collins. Near the house is the original Collins family cemetery containing twelve graves, the largest being that of Michael Collins, Jr. Before her death, Rebecca Wharton Collins had this cemetery enclosed and a stone engraved naming the people who are buried there and the date of their death. Michael Collins' 1856 will had requested the cemetery be enclosed with a brick wall three feet thick and five high. One quarter mile from the cemetery is a slave cemetery containing 50-70 graves.

NOTE: "Pleasant Hill" was still standing in 1998. The property changed hands several times. The father of Julius & Frank Banzet bought the property from the Collins family and sold it in 1900 to Richard Jacob Bender, and it was in the Bender family in 1998. (notes of David Collins)

NOTE: interest in the name Mosley used by Michael Jr., for his son, Benjamin Moseley Collins, and by Michael's sister, Ruth and Albritton Drake for their son, Mosley Collins Drake.

Will of Michael Collins dated November 11, 1856 Warren Co., NC asked that he be buried by his son, George W. L. Collins; to son William F. property already in his possession, Negroes Alfred, Coleman, Tom (since dead), Hetty, Rachael, Ann, Elisa and Margaret, one gray horse, furnishings, and interest in the land and gold mine; daughter Harriet E. A. Fitts property already in her possession, Negroes Robin, Cherry (since deceased), Cherry's children: John, Lewis, Silvy and Lavinia and her child Lewis (since dead), also Martha, Mina, Hilliard and Edny, furnishings, a horse, 2 cows & calves; daughter Temperance L. Clegg property in her possession Negroes Chloe and child Mary, Ephraim (since dead), Matilda and her son Lewis, Henry, Delsy and yellow boy Ephraim (since dead), furniture, one sorrel mare and \$40 to Mr. Clegg; son Joseph J. M. Collins property in his possession Negroes Nathan and his wife Mary, Fanny and her child, Dick & Bet, 444 acres in Nash Co., 3 horses, and discharge from every claim paid for him in Georgia, Alabama and NC amounting to upwards of three thousand dollars; wife Mary, the Tavern and tract attached purchased from Dr. W. J. Hawkins, other tracts, \$5,000 to erect a house, furnishings, livestock, carriage, \$3,500; children Mary G., Amanda C., Thomas C., Aphia E., Michael, Benjamin M. and James S. the sum of \$3,500 each. Remainder of land be sold, including tract upon which I now reside except so much as I have disposed of, the tract purchased from Caswell Drake, tract purchased from Dr. W. J. Hawkins with the mill and the Nutbush tract, all Negroes except those devised to children, including Negroes now in Alabama: George, Edmund, Alfred and Daniel.

Michael Collins (Jr.) and Elizabeth Drake had the following children:

- 12 i. William Francis³ Collins was born October 23, 1807. He served as Treasurer of the State of North Carolina before the Civil War.
- + 13 ii. Harriet Elizabeth Ann Collins was born February 8, 1810.
- + 14 iii. Temperance "Tempie" Louisa Collins was born November 20, 1812. She died in 1888 LA. She married Rev. Baxter Clegg, bond date June 8, 1839, Warren Co., NC. Rev. Clegg was born November 11, 1811 Pittsboro, NC, died October 16, 1884 LA, the son of Thomas A. & Bridget Polk Clegg. (notes of William Grubbs) They had at least one child:
Lula Clegg
- 15 iv. Joseph John Michael Collins was born December 8, 1817. Joseph died after 1856.
- 16 v. Elizabeth Drake Collins was born before 1823. She married Thomas S. Campbell in Warren Co., NC, November 16, 1846. Oliver D. Fitts was bondsman for an Elizabeth D. Collins who took out a marriage bond in Warren County on November 16, 1846, to marry Thomas S. Campbell. She was not named in her father's 1856 will.

Michael Collins (Jr.) and Mary Ann Cottrell had the following children:

- 17 vi. George Washington LaFayette Collins was born June 17, 1825. George died before 1856.
- 18 vii. Mary Glover Collins was born August 31, 1827.
- 19 viii. Amanda Caroline Collins was born 1830. She married James P. Tarry July 23, 1858.
- + 20 ix. Thomas Cottrell Collins was born June 18, 1831.
- 21 x. Aphelia Collins was born about 1835. For the 1850 census, she is living at the girls' school in Warrenton, age 15 (Warrenton Dist., Warren Co., NC)
- + 22 xi. Michael Collins (III) was born December 22, 1837.
- + 23 xii. Benjamin Mosley Collins was born August 18, 1840.
- 24 xiii. James Samuel Collins was born April 11, 1841. James died July 1, 1862 in Varina, VA. He was killed during the Seven Days Battle at the Battle of Malvern Hill, near Richmond, VA, during the Civil War. (notes of David Collins)

Third Generation

13. **Harriet Elizabeth Ann³ Collins** (Michael², Michael¹) was born in Warren Co., NC February 8, 1810. Harriet died 1860 in Warren Co., NC. She married **Oliver Duke Fitts** in Warren Co., NC, April 15, 1828. Oliver was born in Warren Co., NC October 3, 1807. Oliver was the son of Henry Fitts (III) and Sarah "Sallie" Duke. Oliver died February 28, 1854 in Warren Co., NC. His date of death taken from headstone at the Fitts family cemetery at the Henry Fitts homestead (now Perkinson farm) on Oakville Road in Warren Co.
FOR MORE ON DESCENDANTS OF HARRIET AND OLIVER D. FITTS, SEE THE FITTS FAMILY JOURNAL.

Harriet Elizabeth Ann Collins and Oliver Duke Fitts had the following children:

- 25 i. Elizabeth "Bettie Betsy"nd Fitts was born in Warren Co., NC May 3, 1831. Elizabeth died August 17, 1831 in Warren Co., NC.
- 26 ii. Henry Fitts was born in Warren Co., NC October 27, 1832. Henry died November 13, 1862 in Staunton, VA.
- 27 iii. Sallie Duke Fitts was born in Warren Co., NC March 20, 1835. Sallie died July 28, 1836 in Warren Co., NC.
- + 28 iv. Olivea Duke Fitts was born May 10, 1837.
- + 29 v. Francis "Frank" Michael Fitts (Sr.) was born May 8, 1841.
- 30 vi. Tempe Louisa Fitts was born in Warren Co., NC February 1, 1843. Tempe died May 12, 1843 in Warren Co., NC.
- + 31 vii. Harriet Anna E. Fitts was born October 26, 1844.
- 32 viii. Mary Duke Fitts was born in Warren Co., NC May 12, 1848. Mary died January 29, 1935 in Warren Co., NC.
- + 33 ix. George Collins Fitts was born October 15, 1849.

34 x. Oliver Duke Fitts was born July 1, 1852. Oliver died August 8, 1860.

20. **Thomas Cottrell³ Collins** (Michael², Michael¹) was born June 18, 1831. He died after 1880. He married Mary Arrington about 1855, daughter of Lewis A. and Sarah Guthrie Arrington. 1870 census. 1880 census, Asheville, Buncombe Co., NC (p.152) shows him with wife Mary A. b.c. 1836 and children, all born in NC.

Thomas Cottrell Collins had the following children:

- + 35 i. Nicholas Arrington⁴ Collins b.c. 1864, m. Nannie Troy Rives daughter of Benjamin F. and Mary Ann Marsh Rives. They had at least one son:
Hugh Arrington Collins b. March 31, 1893, d. March 3, 1963, m. Bonnie Paralee Netherton
- 36 ii. Mary G. Collins, b.c. 1860
- 37 iii. John W. Collins b.c. 1862
- 38 iv. Alpha P. Collins, b.c. 1866
- 39 v. Lelia L. Collins, b.c. 1868
- 40 vi. Amanda E. Collins, b.c. 1871
- 41 vii. Cora C. Collins, b.c. 1874
- 42 viii. Benjamin M. Collins, b.c. 1878
- 43 ix. Thomas C. Collins, b.c. 1857
- 44 x. George Collins b.c. 1856
- 45 xi. Sallie Collins b.c. 1859

22. **Michael³ Collins (III)** (Michael², Michael¹) was born in NC December 22, 1837. Michael died after 1880. He married **Elizabeth Drake** 1860. Elizabeth was born in NC about 1842. Elizabeth died after 1880. Elizabeth was probably the daughter of Rev. John Quincy Adams Drake and Martha Emily Anderson, as they are the only household in Warren or Nash Counties with a daughter named Elizabeth the right age (1850 census). SEE DRAKE FAMILY JOURNAL.

There is a Michael Collins shown on the 1860 Slave Schedule, Warren Co., NC.

1880 census, Nutbush, Warren Co., NC, p.73B: Michael Collins, 42 NC, farmer, parents born in NC; wife Bettie, 38 NC; Michael (IV) age 16; Jas. age 12; Lizzie age 10; Willie age 8; Lee age 6; Thomas age 4; Mary age 2.

Michael is living two houses away from his brother, Benjamin.

Date of birth from notes of David Collins.

Michael Collins (III) and Elizabeth Drake had the following children:

- 46 i. Michael⁴ Collins (IV) was born in NC about 1868.
- 47 ii. James Collins was born in NC about 1868.
- 48 iii. Lizzie Collins was born in NC about 1870.
- 49 iv. Willie Collins was born in NC about 1872.
- 50 v. Lee Collins was born in NC about 1874.
- 51 vi. Thomas Collins was born in NC about 1876.
- 52 vii. Mary Collins was born in NC about 1878.

23. **Benjamin Mosley³ Collins** (Michael², Michael¹) was born August 18, 1840. Benjamin died before 1920. He married **Mary W. Plummer** May 1, 1878. Mary was born in NC about 1853. Mary was the daughter of Thomas G. Plummer and Asia H. Hunter. Mary died after 1930. It is NOT proved that Mary W. was the daughter of Thomas G. Plummer. It is circumstantial based on the middle names of Mary's children.

She is living in the household of her son, Thomas, in 1920 census. She is shown as head of household in 1930, age 77, occupation as farmer with a general farm. In her household are daughters Lucy, Ann, son Thomas and Mary D. Fitts, niece-in-law, age 81. Benjamin enlisted on May 4, 1861 and was shown as a student and resident of Warren Co., NC. Notes of David Collins indicates he was a student at University of North Carolina. He was a Major and Colonel in the Confederate Army and spoke at Confederate reunions throughout North Carolina. He was known as

"Captain Collins" until his death.

1880 census, Nutbush, Warren Co., NC: Benjamin 39, wife Mollie 27, Mary A. 6 mos., Mary G. Collins, sister, 52; and Mary D. Fitts, 30, relationship is shown as niece and occupation as sister-in-law. Benjamin also had two farm laborers a domestic nurse and a cook in his home: Mary H. Bragden, W, age 93; Ferry Baskerville, B, age 15, farm labor; George Alexander, B, age 15, farm labor; Rosa Hall, MU, age 15, Nurse Dom.; Charlotte Collins, W, 19, cook.

1900 census of Warren Co. NC. Living in the household was Mary Duke Fitts, daughter of Harriet Collins & Oliver Duke Fitts, she is shown as age 52 and niece of Benjamin, working as a housekeeper.

According to the notes of David Collins, he inherited much property in Ridgeway, Warren County after his father's death. He and his family lived at Ridgeway at the home place until their deaths. Only one child, Mary Asia, married. When she was widowed, she returned to the homeplace, where she remained until her death.

The first school in Ridgeway was a subsidiary of Randolph-Macon College and was built on the property owned by Captain Collins. A large two-story dormitory was built to the west of the school, and after the school burned the dormitory became the residence of the Benjamin Collins family. Notes of David Collins indicates the home was still standing in 1998 and completely restored by Mr. & Mrs. Ruben Holzman.

Benjamin Mosely Collins Reminiscences, Manuscripts Department, Library of University of NC, Chapel Hill, Southern Historical Collection: Summary - Benjamin Mosely Collins 1840-1913. Reminiscences 1861-1865; 7 page typed transcription of Benjamin M. Collins of Ridgeway, NC, describing his experiences as a captain in the 12th NC Regiment, serving in the Norfolk, VA area until 1862 and with the Army of Northern Virginia from 1862 to 1865.

Benjamin Mosley Collins and Mary W. Plummer had the following children:

- 53 i. Mary "Asia"^d Collins was born in NC November 9, 1879. Mary died after 1920. She is in the 1920 household of her brother, Thomas. She married in 1920 Herbert W. Petar. After his death, she moved back to the family home. She is not in the home for the 1930 census.
- 54 ii. Lucy Plummer Collins was born in NC September 1, 1881. Lucy died after 1930. She's living in the 1920 household of her brother, Thomas. She's in her mother's 1930 household as Lucy P. Collins.
- 55 iii. Ann "Annie" Falkener Collins was born in NC March 13, 1883. Ann died after 1930. As Ann F. Collins, she is living with her brother, Thomas, in 1920 census. As Ann H. Collins, she's in her mother's 1930 household.
- 56 iv. Johnston Petigrew Collins was born in NC April 3, 1885. Johnston died 1947. He joined the U.S. Army. No one heard from him again until his mother was notified that she had been named beneficiary on his government insurance policy. (notes of David Collins)
On his death, he left instructions that his body be sent home and buried in the family cemetery, Plummer cemetery, Warrenton, with his father, mother, brother and sisters.
- 57 v. Thomas Closter Plummer Collins was born in NC September 9, 1887. Thomas died after 1930. Thomas P. Collins is shown as head of household in 1920 census, Ridgeway Road, Nutbush District, Warren Co., NC (p. 18B). In the house is his mother, Mary, age 67, b. NC, and sisters: "Asia", 39; Lucy, 37; Ann F., 36; and Rebecca, 28; and Miss Mary Fitts, age 70, relationship cousin. As Thomas P. Collins, he is age 42, in his mother's 1930 household. His occupation is farmer with general farm.
NOTE: In the 1950's the house was occupied by three siblings, Thomas, Rebecca and another sister. Items in the house were described by Robert Fitts as once belonging to his grandmother, Harriet Collins Fitts, including a trundle bed. Items from Robert Fitts' family would have been in the house, as his aunt, Mary D. Fitts, lived with the family until her death in 1935. Mary D. Fitts would very probably have furnishings from her mother, Harriet Collins, sister of Benjamin M. Collins and mother of Robert.
- 58 vi. Rebecca Wharton Collins was born in NC March 13, 1890. Rebecca died August, 1976 in Warrenton, Warren Co., NC. Death record for Rebecca Wharton Collins shows she was in hospital at Warrenton and a resident of Ridgeway. Notes of David Collins indicates that before her death she had the family cemetery at "Pleasant Hill" enclosed and a stone engraved naming the people who are buried there and the date of their death.