

JCGS Presentation 2021: The Starnes's Journey South

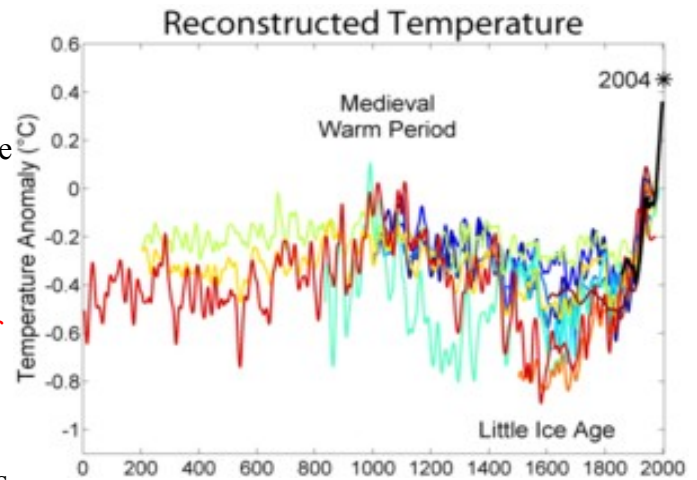
Below is a chronological list of important family events with **corresponding national and international events posted in red for reference**. Approximate US Interstate mile markers are given parenthetically. Important **rivers** are illustrated on the map on p4.



The original Starnes family resided in the Alzey-Worms district of the Rhineland Palatinate of Germany in the late 1600s. **The Palatinate was a region of the Holy Roman Empire ... which ultimately dissolved in 1806 with the rise of Napoleon. The last vestige of the empire was centered in southwest Germany.** The

Starnes family was, like many other poor Palatines, enamored with the idea of owning land in warmer climates ... particularly the Carolinas.

One reason was the mini ice age of 1650 to 1850 in which some Germans claimed they could spit and the water would freeze before hitting the ground. Compelling evidence is found in the story of the lost Norse settlements on Greenland in ca. 1440.



1700 Frederick Starnes is born in the Alzey-Worms area of die Rhineland Palatinate of Germany.

Wikipedia quote:

Germans had trickled into North American colonies since their earliest days. The first mass migration, however, began in 1708. Queen Anne's government had sympathy for the Protestant Germans and had invited them to go to the colonies and work in trade for passage. Official correspondence in British records shows a combined total of 13,146 refugees traveled down the Rhine and or from Amsterdam to England in the summer of 1709. More than 3500 of

these were returned from England either because they were Roman Catholic or at their own request. Henry Jones, quotes an entry in a churchbook by the Pastor of Dreieichenhain that states a total of 15,313 Germans left their villages in 1709 "for the so-called New America and, of course, Carolina." The flood of immigration overwhelmed English resources. It resulted in major disruptions, overcrowding, famine, disease and the death of a thousand or more Palatines. It appeared the entire Palatinate would be emptied before a halt could be called to emigration. Many reasons have been given to explain why so many families left their homes for an unknown land. Knittle summarizes them: "(1) war devastation, (2) heavy taxation, (3) an extraordinarily severe winter, (4) religious quarrels, but not persecutions, (5) land hunger on the part of the elderly and desire for adventure on the part of the young, (6) liberal advertising by colonial proprietors, and finally (7) the benevolent and active cooperation of the British government."

No doubt the biggest impetus was the harsh, cold winter that preceded their departure. Birds froze in mid-air, casks of wine, livestock, whole vineyards were destroyed by the unremitting cold. With what little was left of their possessions, the refugees made their way on boats down the Rhine to Amsterdam, where they remained until the English government decided what to do about them. Ships were finally dispatched for them across the English Channel, and the Palatines arrived in London, where they waited longer while the British government considered its options. So many arrived that the government created a winter camp for them outside the city walls. A few were settled in England, a few more may have been sent to Jamaica and Nassau, but the greatest numbers were sent to Ireland, Carolina and especially, New York in the summer of 1710. They were obligated to work off their passage.

JCGS Presentation 2021: The Starnes's Journey South

1710 Starneses arrive in NY from the Alzey Palatinate of Germany and live a hard life for about 30 yr in upstate NY and PA. Frederick Starnes I is 10 at the time. American settlements are about 100 yr old and primarily situated in the northeast (NY, MA, RI, PA) and tidewater areas (VA, NC). Famous Palatine families also arriving at about the same time include the Rockefellers, Herkimers, Weisers and Zengers.

1739-40 Frederick Starnes I and growing family leave PA, journey down the northern flank of the Wilderness Road to Draper's Meadows, VA (ca VA I-81 114) settling near the New River. This river is actually one of the oldest in North America and flows north, ultimately emptying into the Kanawha River near Charleston, WV. Also, at this time, in England, Handel and Jennens compose the oratorio entitled Messiah.



1746 Possible first current spelling of name in Augusta County, VA survey, "the old Starns place" (ca VA I-81 105). There is however the earlier possibility of 1731 when the current spelling was used in Charleston, SC involving a deed.

1750 Stalnaker's Cabin (ca VA I-81 44) (current site of Holston Hills Country Club) was erected by Captain Samuel Stalnaker, Dr. Thomas Walker (W&M '37?)(right), and Col Patton enroute to exploring the Cumberland Gap and KY(below). Stalnaker was asked to join as guide since he had already been through the gap and into KY several years prior, but he declined, wishing to settle down with his family. Dr. Walker later built the first cabin in KY (below) and is credited with saving many lives there during the horrific winter of 1779-80.



JCGS Presentation 2021: The Starnes's Journey South

1755 Shawnee attack on Draper's Meadows. Mary Ingalls captured by Shawnee Indians. Frederick I wounded in defense (ca VA I-81 114). It is quite possible that some of Frederick's sons performed work on Fort Loudon (ca TN I-75 68)(right) at this time. **This was an early skirmish in what is now known as the French 'n' Indian War. The world war was fought from 1754 to 1763 between the English and Colonial forces against the French 'n' Indian forces. Recognizing that the victory would be decided in North America, Parliament approved vast funding for the English effort here. As a result, construction on Forts Loudon (ca TN I-75 68), Old Fort (NC I-40 73) and Prince George (ca SC I-85 14) were begun along the colonial frontier. Similarly Col William Byrd ordered the construction of Fort Chiswell in VA (ca VA I-81 82, VA I-77 32). In the same summer, Samuel Stalaker was also captured by the Shawnees. His wife and son were killed in the attack and this may have been the source of the name Hungry Mother State Park. Stalaker later escaped.**



1756 Frederick Starnes I, now in his mid 50's, serves as Augusta (?) County commissioner in charge of purchasing locally produced beef for American troops.



1760 In June, Leonard, Adam and Joseph Starnes (under the command of Colonel Archibald Montgomery) are “defeated” by Cherokee under Chief Oconostota at **Echoe (right)** near present day Franklin, NC (loosely ca NC I-40 20) in a foiled attempt to free residents of besieged Fort Loudon (ca TN I-75 68). **The pass is opened with high cost about a year later by forces under LT Frances “Swamp Fox” Marion precipitating Cherokee surrender.**



1761 After mustering again, this time only to wait idly for two months at the Stalaker drill field (ca VA I-81 32) for the unreliable and pompous Col William Byrd (left), Leonard, Adam and Joseph Starnes participate in the extension of the Wilderness Road down to the Long Island of the Holston near Kingsport, TN (ca TN I-26 1). **Major Andrew Lewis, and CPT Waddell were ultimately in charge of this undertaking (William Byrd having resigned) and it was here that the northern segment of Cherokee nation surrendered.**



1763 King George III prohibits English settlements west of the great eastern continental divide.

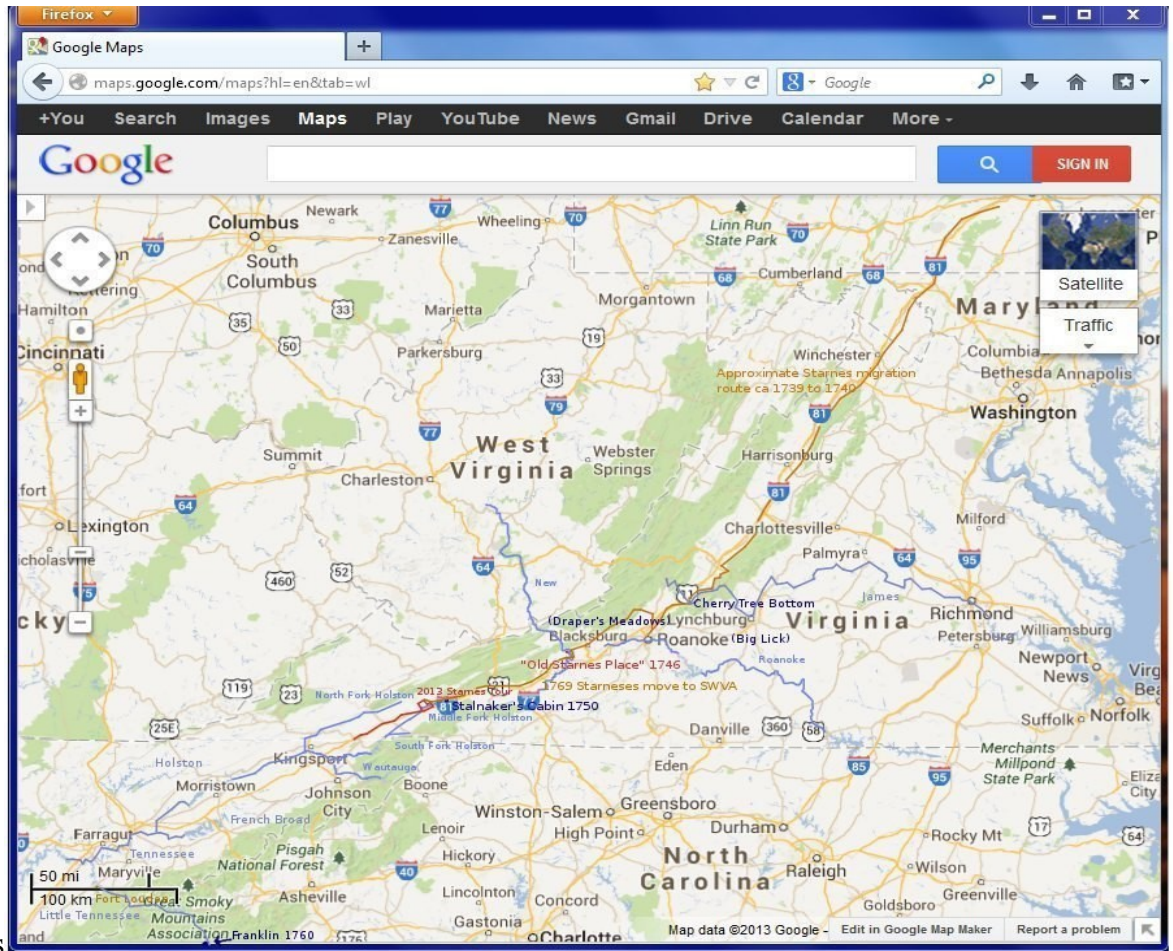


JCGS Presentation 2021: The Starnes's Journey South

1769 Frederick Starnes II moves to the present site of Chilhowie, VA (VA I-81 35) as the first land owner under **John Stuart's 1768 Treaty of Hard Labor**. He is followed by a large part of the rest of the family including Nicholas Starnes (of AL fame) (ca VA I-81 32), and the Gerlach family. It is also possible that Thomas Starnes preceded all of them, and settled in the same area in the early 1750's only to be pushed back to the New River Valley by Indian troubles.

Wolfgang Mozart composes his first concerto.

1775 Finishing a remarkable lifetime (especially for the time period) Frederick Starnes I dies and is buried at Sulpher Spring Cemetary near Chilhowie, VA (ca VA I-81 35). A significant grave marker is erected by the ST at the cemetary in 1995. **Note that the death takes place about one year prior to the commencement of the Revolutionary War.**



Starnes Tour Map 2013
Journey of Frederick Starnes and family 1739 to ca 1800

JCGS Presentation 2021: The Starnes's Journey South

1777 Joseph, Valentine and Jacob Starnes (sons of Frederick I) and families strike out for Kentucky and settle at Boone's Fort (above right) in KY (ca KY I-75 95) and help defend the Fort.



1779 The family takes losses in April at the hands of the Shawnee (below) in Starnes Defeat (left) near Berea, KY (KY I-75 76). The dead are found by great Kentuckian William Whitley (right), and other Starneses gain revenge as part of the Raid on the Shawnee into Chillicothe, Ohio in November 1779 under George Rogers Clark.



1780 Joseph and Nicholas Starnes, as part of the “Overmountain Men”, under Colonel William Campbell, muster at Sycamore Shoals (TN I-26 24) and take part in the defeat of British Colonel Joseph Ferguson at King's Mountain (below right) in South Carolina (NC I-85 2). Following this battle, the British move to consolidate forces in SE VA on and around the York River.

1781 It is at about this time the Starnes family begins to spread out over the American South. Frederick II and move and settle into central and western NC, Nicholas goes south into Alabama, the descendants of Jacob and Valentine Starnes settle in KY while some of their descendant move down the Mississippi to west TN, MS, LA and TX. Cornwallis surrenders to George Washington at Yorktown.

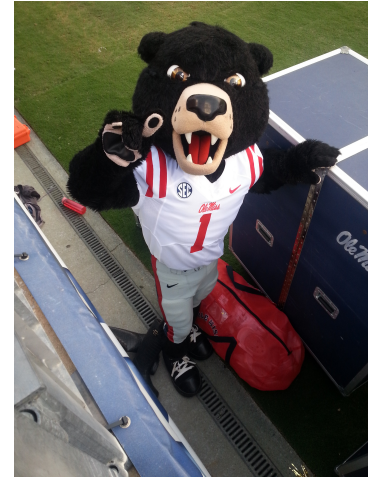


Quiz

1. In what year AD did the Starnes family come to America?
 - a) 1610
 - b) 1710
 - c) 1810
 - d) 1910
 - e) 2010
2. Who is the progenitor of the Southern Starneses?
 - a) Sanford Steelman
 - b) Al Starnes
 - c) Leonard Starnes
 - d) Frederick Starnes
 - e) Lee Starnes

JCGS Presentation 2021: The Starnes's Journey South

3. What was the name of the great settler highway to the land beyond the mountains used by the Starneses in the 18th century?
 - a) the Big Valley
 - b) the Highway to Heaven
 - c) US 11
 - d) the Bluegrass Parkway
 - e) the Wilderness Road
4. Which French 'n' Indian War fort possibly involved construction work by Frederick I's sons?
 - a) Fort Apache the Bronx
 - b) Fort Knox
 - c) the Old Fort
 - d) Fort Chiswell
 - e) Fort Loudon
5. Which famous landmark is closest to “the old Starns Place” of 1746?
 - a) Lane Stadium at Virginia Tech
 - b) Washington Monument
 - c) Natural Bridge
 - d) Barter Theater
 - e) Chimney Rock
6. In what year did several Gerlach and Starnes families move to Chilhowie, VA?
 - a) 1710
 - b) 1739
 - c) 1755
 - d) 1769
 - e) 1775
7. Which of the following represents famous Palatines.
 - a) Nelson Rockefeller
 - b) Bill Clinton
 - c) Richard Daley
 - d) Helmut Schmidt
 - e) Conrad Weiser



Bibliography

Starnes, Herman and Gerald Starnes, *Of Them That Left a Name Behind*, Heritage, 2002

www.wikipedia.org

Google Images

Google Maps

<http://pages.swcp.com/~dhickman/articles/stalnaker.html>

<http://www.lauraandmark.com/hungry-mother-4.htm>

Knittle, Walt, *Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1965

Giles, Janice Holt, *The Kentuckians*, Houghton-Mifflin, 1953

Giles, Janice Holt, *Hannah Fowler*, Houghton-Mifflin, 1956