

## Family Group Sheet for George Byars

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**Husband:** George Byars

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Birth: Abt. 1741  
Death: 1785 in Granville Co., NC  
Marriage: Abt. 1760  
Father: John Byars  
Mother: Ann



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**Wife:** Mary Bullock

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Death: Aft. 1810 in prob. Granville Co., NC  
Father:  
Mother:



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**Children:**

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1 Name: Nicholas Byars  
M Birth: Abt. 1765 in NC  
Death: 10 Feb 1845 in Henry County, TN  
Marriage: Abt. 1790  
Spouse: Rhody



2 Name: Barbary Byars  
F Birth: Abt. 1769 in prob. Granville Co., NC  
Marriage: 05 Dec 1788 in Granville Co., NC  
Spouse: Frederick Beck



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**Notes:**

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### George Byars

This George Byars is a provisional son of John Byars. The family is presented for the purpose of recording data that will prove or disprove their relationship. GST

George Byars is the earliest proven ancestor of a long line of descendants who lived in Granville Co., NC, from 1761, or earlier, until about 1835. They are possibly related to the James Henry Byars-Peggy Gentry family of Louisa County, VA, but no firm link has been established. Some of the Granville County Byars may have come from Louisa County.

There is a John Byarss on pg. 2 of Jonathan White's 1750 list of taxables in Granville Co. and a John Byars on the 1771 tax lists. John Byus received a plat dated 1 Nov. 1752: 640 acres in Granville Co. on both sides of the Tar River. Sworn Chain Carriers: William Byus, John Buys, Dan Weldon, Survr. Entered 4 Mar 1752. William and John Buys continue to survey land in Granville and Rowan Counties until at least 1763. (The Granville District of North Carolina 1748-1763, *Abstracts of Miscellaneous Land Office Records*, v. 4; Weldon NC 27890, Roanoke News Co., 1993; p. 244 (records 2496, 2497).

Other *Byars* taxpayers or heads of households in Granville Co. before 1800 include William Byars, who was an attorney; Guillaume/Gulemus Byars, who witnessed several documents; James Byars who died before 1800 and left a young family; and Anderson Byars, who is found in Mecklenburg Co. VA and Granville and Warren Counties in NC. The names and ages of these men lead you to believe they could be brothers, or at least uncles and nephews. No parents are proven for any of them to this writer's knowledge. N.B. Guillaume is the French form for the name William. This form is found in Ireland during the 1200s. William Byars and Guillaume/Gulemus Byars may be the same person.

In the 1797 tax records of Granville, James Byars and Anderson Byars are counted in the Abrams Plains District, Nicholas in the Dutch District (southwestern portion), and William in the Island Creek District (the north-central area). In 1789, Mary is listed in the Dutch District with 200 acres (probably George's land). In 1800, Guillaume is in Abrams Plains, acreage is not given. He is listed as 26-45 in the census of that year,

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**Notes: (con't)**

and is not found again in the census. In 1804, Anderson Byars appears again in Abrams Plains, no acreage listed. The year 1807 is the last appearance of Anderson Byars on the tax lists.

It is likely that the Anderson Byars who is over 45 in the 1820 census of Mecklenburg Co., VA, is the same Anderson Byars found on Granville tax lists. It is not likely that George Byars had a son he failed to mention in his will. He is probably George's brother or at least a cousin. This Anderson is not seen on censuses before or after 1820, to the writer's knowledge. It is possible his name is William Anderson Byars and that he appears under the name of William. Anderson Byars married Sallie Dortch in 1814 in Mecklenburg Co., VA, and is said to have moved to Maury Co. TN. A daughter, Maria L. Byers, married George Barker in Maury Co. 12 Feb 1846. Source: *The Goodspeed Histories of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford & Marshall Counties of Tennessee*, originally published in 1886, reprinted by Woodward & Stinson Printing Co., Columbia, TN, 1977; pg 906 (under story on William A. Barker).

William Byars, the attorney, died in late 1831, and also left a will. The 1830 census lists him as 90-100 years of age. Cyrus Davis, who married a Sallie Byars witnessed his will. This William could conceivably be the William Byars who is surveying in Granville Co. by 1752, with perhaps John being his father. Probate records refer to this William Byars as Capt. William Byars.

The descendants of George Byars who died in 1785, and William Byars who died in 1831, continue to live as neighbors after moving into Henry, Weakley and Williamson Counties in Tennessee. Judging from land deed activity, the removal of these families to Tennessee took place from 1827 to about 1835.

#### Country of Origin:

In light of the fact that a Nicholas Byus is mentioned in ships passenger lists of 1740 as entering Philadelphia from Germany, and the fact of the subject George Byars's family residence in the Dutch (Deutsch) District of Granville and their subsequent marriages into the known German families of Huffman (Hoofman), Glymph and Beck, the writer has considered that this family was also of German descent. However, other researchers have pointed out that German immigrants did not usually own slaves. By contrast, the Granville Co. Byars did own slaves.

Daniel Byars's preliminary research of parish records of various English counties in the 1600-1700 era, shows the use of the given name Nicholas Byars families appearing in Durham and Yorkshire. A Guielmus Byars is listed as the groom in a marriage record in Cumberland Co. in 1731, Hesketh-in-the-Forest Parish. There are no Byars to speak of in the larger cities of London, Manchester, Liverpool, etc., but Daniel did find concentrations of families by the Byars surname in the northern English counties mentioned. His study shows that poor economic conditions in Yorkshire and Durham after about 1660 led many people to relocate to Ireland (Ulster) and one would presume that some of these residents may have moved to America as well. It seems that a migration from Ulster to America began after 1717, which of course, would be another route to America for English people from the northern counties.

All things considered, the Byars family is probably English, or English with a stay in Ireland. (Letter of Daniel Byars, 1111 Greenfield Circle., Geneva, IL 60134, 18 Aug. 1998.)

#### GEORGE BYARS ACTIVITY:

1763--11 July, Granville Co. NC: George Byars property line is mentioned in a land purchase by Francis Foulks from H. McCullough. (Abstracts of the Early Deeds of Granville County, North Carolina 1746-1765; Zae Hargett Gwynn; Joseph W. Watson, Rocky Mount, NC; 1974)

1778--30 May, Dutch District, Granville Co., NC: he took an oath of allegiance to the colonies, along with many other county residents. This list was compiled by John Penn Chapter, DAR, 1926.

1779--May 4, Granville Co., NC: Christiana Hovemany (Hoofman), aged 15 last Jany, bound to George Byards, until 18, to become "spinner." (History and Genealogies of Old Granville County, North Carolina, 1746-1800, Thomas McAdory Owen, Southern Historical Press, Greenville, SC, 1993; p 194)

1779--5 Aug., Granville Co.: George Byars is subject of land survey record # 1099: Biars, George, 280 acres, grant no. 192, Entry # 481, bk #35, pg 123; it appears that Jacob Huffman was involved with the

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**Notes: (con't)**

survey which was signed by Thomas Person, Jur.

1785--Granville Co., NC: George Byars left a will which mentions his wife Mary, daughter Barbary, son Nicholas, Christina Hoofman when she marries, and George Glymph when he reaches the age of twelve. Photocopy of will in writer's file. (Granville County Record of Wills, 1772-1791, Vol. 1, pgs 426-427, document #: C.044.80002)

NOTE: Christina Hoofman married William Beck in Granville Co., NC 1788, Joseph Landers, bm; A. Henderson, wit. Writer's e-mail correspondence with John V. Beck, <jbeck@kiva.net> 906D Maxwell Terrace, Bloomington IN 47401-5166; 10 Aug 1998, states that Christina and William died in Forsythe County, NC. *Forsythe County NC Cemetery Records*, Vol. III, by Donald W. Stanley, Hazell R. Hartmann and Ann Ellis Sheek, records the Beck-Shouse Family Cemetery, 3 miles east of Bethania on west side of C.R. 1672 (Hanes Mills Rd.) 0.65 miles south of intersection with U.S. 52: Beck, Christena C. (H: Wm.) 25 Jan 1764 - 9 Jan. 1849; Beck, William (W: C. C.) 12 Feb 1766 - 7 Feb 1845. In this cemetery is John Martin Beck (Aug. 1740 - 12 Sept 1819), definitely William's father and likely the son of Johan Frederick Beck Sr. who died early in 1800. William and Christina were childless, but they raised a nephew.

1786-87 Granville Co. North Carolina Court Minutes, p 82 in original document, references suit of Ragland vs. Byars for debts. This is related to Ambrose Barker's inventory of the estate of Stephen Ragland. *Court Minutes of Granville County North Carolina 1746-1820*; Zae H. Gwynn; Joseph W. Watson, Rocky Mount, NC, 1977; p 78.

1811, Warren Co. NC (immediately to the east of Granville Co.): Taxable property in Shocco District for the year as listed by Jno. L. Ward, J.P., was a John Byers. This John Byers is also listed in the Shocco District in 1812. Could this be another son of George, or an earlier son of William who m. Lucy Clayton 1790? (*Warren County, North Carolina Records, Vol. III, Abstracts of Will Books 1779-1814*, Mary Hinton Kerr, 1969; pg. 202, 216)

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**Mary Bullock**

1 Feb. 1783, Granville Co., NC: George Byars and his wife Mary sold 280a. to Jeremiah Bullock on waters of the Ledge of Rocks Cr. Beg. at a R. O. Eleazers corner in Becks line. S 53 1/2 dgrs. 160 pls. pine in Burford's line> N 32 pls. W. O. his other line> W 190 pls. his corner on small branch of sd. Ledge Cr.> Whealans (Wheeler) line up the sd. branch N 5 dgrs. W 84 pls. to Jones' line> his line E 30 pls. pine> his line N 90 pls. W. O.> E 210 pls. Eleazer's line> his line S 36 1/2 dgrs. E to beg. Wit. Charles Bullock, prvd. Feb Ct. (N.B.: Both George and Mary signed the deed with their marks. Mary signed as Mary Bullock. Within this deed both Byars and Biars spelling is used. This deed is important as proof that George's wife was Mary Byars nee Bullock). (Granville Deeds, Bk. O, pp.231-232). [From the research of William T. Skinner, Charlotte NC, 2001; GST] 1785, Granville Co., NC: named as wife of George Byars in his will. 1786 State Census of North Carolina: Mary Byars, head of household: males: 2 (under 21 & over 60) females: 2 (of all ages) blacks: 2(12-50); 3(under 12 and over 50) "State Census of North Carolina 1784-1787," Second Issue, Revised; Mrs. Alvaretta K. Register; Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1987; pg 46. 1790 Granville Co. NC census: Mary Byars, head of household (no detail) 1800 & 1810 Granville Co. NC censuses: the Nicholas Byars family lists a female 45 years & up. This could very well be Mary. If this is true, she died after 1810.

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**Nicholas Byars**

1800 Granville Co. NC census, printed pg. 569:  
Nicholas Byars, head of household  
males: 2(under 10), 1(26-45)  
females: 2(under 10), 1(26-45), 1(45 & up)  
slaves: 3

1803--Granville Co. NC: Nicholas Byars was bondsman for marriage of Peter Cash and Cressey Hoofman. (Holcomb, Marriages of Granville County, N.C. 1753-1868)

1810 Granville Co. NC census, printed pg. 125  
Nicholas Byars, head of household

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**Notes: (con't)**

males: 2(under 10), 1(10-16), 2(16-26), 1(26-45)  
females: 2(10-16), 1(26-45), 1(45 & up)  
1 free person  
slaves: 1

1812--3 Aug: Knight Dolby, appointed overseer of the road from Lander's path to Ledge of Rocks, with the hands of Jacob Hoofman, Peter Cash, Jr., and Sr., Frederick Beck, John and George Landers, Nicholas Byars, Cyrus Davis, and John C. Philpott. Court Minutes of Granville County North Carolina 1746-1820; Zae H. Gwynn; Joseph W. Watson, Rocky Mount, NC, 1977; p 245.

1820 Granville Co. NC census, printed pg. 43:  
Nicholas Byars, head of household  
males: 1(u-10), 1(10-16), 1(16-26), 1(45 & up)  
females: 1(16-26)  
3 engaged in agriculture  
1 female slave under 14

1828--Henry Co. TN Tax List: The first known mention of the name Nicholas Byars in Tennessee. The motivation for his move to Tennessee was likely typical of other settlers. Migration into Henry and Weakley Counties is described in Vol. 16, issue No. 2, pg. 15 of FORGET ME NOT, the publication of the Weakley County Genealogical Society which states: "Immediately after the Western District was cleared of all Indian Claims, an enormous flow of settlers, some with military warrants, rushed in to claim land. Some reasons for this heavy immigration were the spirit of speculation, the 1824 financial panic, and severe drought of 1826 in North Carolina, which forced people to seek fortunes elsewhere. Many large land holders in the district had to sell much land to pay their taxes, making land more available to new settlers. Most of the immigrants were from North and South Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky and Middle and East Tennessee, the latter originally from the former states. Most migration came into Weakley County from the east, across Henry County, since navigation up the Obion River in flatboats was virtually impossible due to the tree-clogged streams."

There is no way to be positive about the route Nicholas Byars and his sons, along with possible uncles and cousins, made their way to West Tennessee. The Jolley Book by B. M. Jolley, compiler, Brigham Young Univ. Press, 1966; describes the probable movement of his family into this area: "William Bean of Virginia found his way through the Cumberland Gap in 1769. He, no doubt, followed Daniel Boone along this trail and connected with the Warriors Path. Bean is supposed to have built the first cabin in Tennessee on the banks of the Watauga River. Part of this route came to be known as the Wilderness Road." The Byars probably didn't take this path, but we rather, "...think they traveled west through Raleigh to Salisbury, NC which was a junction for pioneers moving west and south. From Salisbury the road cuts through a corner of South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, following the Tennessee River north into Tennessee. This was probably a longer route than through the Cumberland Gap, but the records show that most people moving to Tennessee took this route."

Principal crops for Henry and Weakley Counties were tobacco, cotton and sugar cane.

1830 U.S. census, Henry Co. TN census (permanent record is alphabetical):  
Nicholas BOYERS, head of household  
males: 1(40-50)  
females: 1(60-70)

1833 Henry Co. TN tax list: Includes Bias: Nicholas, William, George, John, Henry

1840 Henry Co. TN census, p 453:  
Nicholas Byars  
males: 1(60-70), 1(70-80)  
females: 1(60-70)

Some of Nicholas's children do not appear in Henry & Weakley Counties until after the 1830 census.

1845 Tax List Henry Co., Tennessee, Gwyn B. McNutt, Paris, TN, 1989; p18: District 11: Nicholas Byars,

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**Notes: (con't)**

George Byars, John H. Byars, John Byars, Wm. Byars all listed. Also in the district is Joseph Barton Jr. and Sr., Thomas Hoofman. A David and William Fowler are in District 15.

July 1845 Henry Co. TN: Will filed for probation; written 10 July 1839, with codicil written 28 Sept. 1842); Janus Walker and James H. Howard witnessed both. Will indicates that his son William (b. 1816) is by his second wife who is still living at the time of the writing. Elizabeth Byars, deceased, is mentioned as an heir. Her children are to receive her share. John Byars was appointed administrator and posted a \$4,000 bond with Janus Walker and William Byars as securities. John Byars account of sales was ordered recorded July 1845 (Bk. G, pg 323). Later entries of sales were recorded 25 April 1846 (Roll 80, Bk G, pg 214) and 7 Sept. 1847 (Roll 80, Bk. G, pg 407). The will and codicil are found on Henry Co. TN, microfilm, Roll 102, Wills, Inventories, Settlements: Vol. A-F; Jan 1842 to Dec. 1844; pgs 317-318. Summary of will: "...names son William Byars, sons George, David, Henry, and John, and heirs of Elizabeth Byars, deceased. A share to Sarah Barton and then to her heirs. Wife is mentioned. W. Byars mother-in-law." (Tennessee Genealogical Records, Whitley, pg. 231)

NOTE: Mrs. Whitley seems to draw some conclusions to relationships which are not accurate. Wife is mentioned but not named. William Byars mother is mentioned, not mother-in-law. Writer is not at all certain the will indicates two marriages. A transcription of the 1842 codicil follows below.

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Last Will and Testament of Nicholas Byars; Henry Co., TN, Microfilm copy, Roll 102 Vol A-F, Page 317-318:

State of Tennessee, Henry County} July 10, 1839:

I Nicholas Byars of the County and State aforesaid do make and publish this my Last Will and Testament hereby revoking and making void all former wills by me at any time heretofore made. I first direct that my body be discreetly interred and that my funeral be carried out in a manner corresponding with my estate and situation in life and as such worldly estate as if hath pleased God entrusted me with I dispose of the same as follows.

1st. I direct that all my debts and funeral expenses be paid as soon after my decease as possible out of the first moneys that shall come into hands of my executors. I direct that after my debts and funeral expenses is paid that all the balance of my estate shall be and remain the property of my beloved wife if she shall be living at the time of my decease to be and remain hers during her life or widowhood and after her death I do direct that my son William Byars is to have two hundred dollars first after the death of his mother in lieu of lands that I have given to my other sons; George, David, Henry and John. I do direct that the balance be divided share and share a like among all my children; George, David, Henry, William, John. I do direct that the heirs of Elizabeth Byars deceased shall have that would have been their mother's. I do will that Sarah Barton have her equal share to be hers during her natural life and then to be equally divided among her children.

In witness whereof I Nicholas Byars the testator have to this my will written on one sheet of paper set my hand and seal this 10th day of July, One-thousand-eight-hundred and thirty-nine.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of us who have inscribed in the presence of each other:  
Nicholas Byars (his X mark) (SEAL)

James Walker  
James H Howard

Whereas I Nicholas Byars of the State of Tennessee and the County of Henry having made and duly executed my Last Will and Testament in writing bearing date July 10, 1839. Now I do hereby declare this present writing to be a codicil to said will and direct the same to be annexed to and taken as part thereof. And I do hereby will that my son William Byars have my servant woman Hannah after my decease by paying the sum of three hundred dollars to be due when other money is by the sale of the administrator and that the said William is to have all of her increase after this date by paying all expenses. I the said Nicholas Byars have to the codicil set my hand and seal this the 28th day of September, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-Two.

Signed in the presence of us who have here Subscribed in the presence of each other:

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**Notes: (con't)**

Nicholas X Byars (his mark) (SEAL)  
James Walker, James H Howard

The following from Tana Morgan to GST by e-mail, September 2007. Tana Morgan, 1602 Yorkmunster Dr., Spring, TX 77379; <botaus@aol.com>:

***"Henry Co., TN Administrator's, Executors, Guardian Bonds and Settlement Book G July 1844-Mar 1852 LDS film 0575010 (original records)***

"Pg. 286

John Byars Administrator with the will annexed of the estate of N. Byars dec.

To inventory or account of sales returned Oct 6, 1845 \$252.73  $\frac{3}{4}$

To amount of sales Dec & April 1846 \$2328.43  $\frac{3}{4}$

\$2581.17  $\frac{1}{2}$

CR

By B.C. Brown Clerk receipt 6.00

" John H. Dunlap Att receipt 25.00

" Cash paid James Oakley Burial Clothes 6.34

" Cash paid William Byar's note 6.00

" Cash paid Pason (?) Yates receipt for buying sale 5.00

" Cash paid Moses Todd p\_\_\_\_\_ Acpt 2.75

" Cash paid George Byars ditto 6.18

" Cash paid John D. Carie (?) ditto 18.93  $\frac{3}{4}$

" Cash paid Clerk for ? 3.00

" Cash paid clerk for settlement and recording 2.50 1.71  $\frac{3}{4}$

And in hand of administrator June 5<sup>th</sup> 1847 2499.45  $\frac{3}{4}$

Recorded 4th of June 1847 by C. Frazier, Clk.

"Pg. 349

John Byars, Administrator, with the will annexed of the estate of N. Byars, dec.

To amount due June 5th 1847 last sellmt (sic) 2499.45  $\frac{3}{4}$

To interest on this amt to the 5th of May 1848 137.47

Cr 2636.92  $\frac{3}{4}$

By Cash paid John H. Dunlap Atty with interest 15.52  $\frac{1}{2}$

" Cash paid George W. Morse\* Dorfp (??) 12.33

" Cash paid George W. Morse\* 204.20

" Cash paid David Byars a legatee 309.30

\* there is a William Morse on pg 19 of the 1840 Williamson Co., TN 1840 Census with David Byars.....possible George William Morse?"

The following from Tana Morgan to GST in an e-mail, September 25, 2007.

"Pg 448

John Byars, Administrator with will annexed of the estate of N. Byars

The amount due on last settlement May 5<sup>th</sup> 1848

By George Byars receipt May 5<sup>th</sup> 1848

By George Byars receipt for N. Byars

By H. Byars receipt a legatee

Joseph and Sarah Barton a legatee (It says something out to the side of this couple but (I) can not discern what it says.)

David Byars a legatee

*Alfred Byars* a legatee

*William Byars* a legatee

William Byars Sr. a legatee

Amount due Sarah Barton May 5, 1849 \$302.13  $\frac{3}{4}$

Recorded 22 May 1849"

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**Notes: (con't)**

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**Barbary Byars**

Another marriage entry for Granville Co., NC, is a Fredrick Beck marriage to Nancey Bailey, 8 March 1799. Barbary could have died and this was a second marriage for the same Fredrick Beck.

John V. Beck, researcher, questions that perhaps the first Frederick Beck marriage was actually for Michael Beck. Michael Beck had a son James Beck b. 1789, who was the oldest son of Michael. Occasionally a marriage record is in error in that the clerk registers the bondsman in both places. However, Michael Beck's wife is always mentioned as Ann. Perhaps Barbary had a double name. Michael and Ann Beck did not name a son Frederick, which adds to the questions. (e-mail from John V. Beck, Sept. 1998)

Prepared By:

Preparer:

Phone:

Email:

Address: