

NC Ref
929.2
M473

Mayo Family Genealogy

1600's to 1800's

by

Judy Rumsey Mayo

NC Ref
929.2
M473

English 152

Monika Sutherland

November 15, 1993

Mayo Family Genealogy

European Heritage

The name MAYO has originations in Spain, England, and Ireland. The traditional stories of the family heritage of the Mayo family of Edgecombe County, North Carolina include each of these three countries.

The English Mayo comes from an Old French word, MAHIEU. MAHIEU is an English form of the Hebrew word MATTATHIAH which means "gift of Jehovah." In England many families with the names Mayo, May, and Mayhew lived in the counties of Wilts, Dorset, and Gloucestershire.

The Irish Mayo originates from the Old Celtic word MAGH-EO or MAGEO. This means "plain of the yews." There is an area in Ireland known as County Mayo. There are many other places in Ireland that bear the name MAYO.

In Spain, the word Mayo means the fifth month of the calendar year "May." Throughout that country there are many persons and places with the name Mayo. It is a common name, as the name SMITH is popular in this country.

Arrivals of persons by the name of Mayo to America are documented to be as early as 1632. Two men by the name of John Mayo emigrated to New England in 1632 and 1638. The John Mayo who came in 1638 became the first minister of North Church in Boston in 1655.

Family tradition claims two conflicting stories. One such story holds that the family descended from three Mayo brothers who emigrated to Mayo County, Ireland from Spain and

then migrated to Charles County, Maryland. Two of these brothers were named William and Don, the name of the third brother is not known. The brother named William is noted on most family historical charts as being the first Mayo in America.

The second story places John Mayo as the head of the family. The story claims he came to America around the year 1600 from Kent, England with many other Mayos. He came to America to escape religious persecution. The family of this John Mayo were staunch Protestants who loathed the Catholic Church. The first Mayo's in North Carolina were steadfast Primitive Baptists, this fact substantiates this second story.

Reverend John Mayo was the minister of the Old North Church in Boston. He had a son named Nathaniel who married Hannah Prence (a daughter of Thomas Prence, the Governor of the Plymouth Colony and Patience Brewster, the daughter of Governor William Brewster, who was also of the Plymouth Rock Colony.) The descendants of this couple used the names Nathan and Nathaniel frequently. It is most probable that the current Mayo family of North Carolina who descended from a man named Nathan Mayo came from the line of Reverend John Mayo who came to America in 1638. A son of Nathaniel and Hannah may be the William Mayo who was the father of William Mayo, Jr. from whom this Mayo family of North Carolina descended.

Colonial Ancestors

1) William Mayo died in 1715 in Isle of Wight County, Virginia. He married Isabel Hardy (the daughter of John Hardy and Olive Council) in 1681. Their children were:

- i. William Mayo, Jr.
- ii. John Mayo
- iii. James Mayo
- iv. Peter Mayo
- v. Margaret Mayo
- vi. Patience Mayo
- vii. Mary Mayo

A will dated around 1700 in Isle of Wight County, Virginia shows William Mayo lived there at that time. In this will all seven of the children noted above were mentioned.

2) William Mayo, Jr. was born in 1682. He married Martha Johnson (daughter of Robert Johnson and Katherine Allen of Isle of Wight, Virginia). He died in 1759 at the age of 77. Their children were:

- i. William Mayo
- ii. Nathan Mayo (Colonel)
- iii. James Mayo
- iv. Peter Mayo
- v. John Mayo
- vi. Martha Hathaway Mayo
- vii. Elizabeth Hearn Mayo
- viii. Mary Cobb Mayo
- ix. Ann Cheek Mayo
- x. Delilah Mayo

William Mayo, Jr. moved his family to North Carolina from Isle of Wight County, Virginia. His will is recorded in Beaufort County, North Carolina. Deeds indicate that he moved to or purchased property in Edgecombe County, North Carolina before 1742.

3) Nathan Mayo was born on September 22, 1742 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He died on March 14, 1811 in Edgecombe County, North Carolina at the age of 69. In 1747 he married Julia Williams. Julia was born in 1747, she died on March 24, 1777 at the young age of 30. They had the following children:

- i. Micajah Mayo, Sr.
- ii. Tabitha (Talitha) Mayo
- iii. John Williams Mayo
- iv. Fredrick Mayo

Following the death of his first wife, Nathan Mayo married the widow of Thomas Hyman, II, Elizabeth Barden Hyman. She had one child by her first husband. This son was then reared Nathan. Together they had a second child. Therefore, their children were:

- i. William Hyman
- ii. Nathan Mayo, Jr.

The Mayo family received large land grants from the Lord Proprietors when they moved to Beaufort County, North Carolina in 1759. Nathan sold his property in Beaufort then purchased a large plantation in Martin County (an area which is now located in Edgecombe County) before 1776.

In the Revolutionary War Nathan successively led the Militia of his county as Captain, Major, and Colonel. He is known in most documentation as Colonel Nathan Mayo.

Colonel Nathan Mayo served as the representative of Martin County in the state legislature until county lines were redrawn so that his plantation was placed in Edgecombe

County. The county lines were redrawn upon a petition of a new survey of the county line being filed by Judge Asa Biggs and Colonel Nathan Mayo. Judge Asa Biggs desired to represent Martin County in the legislature. He lived in Williamston, just a few miles from Colonel Nathan Mayo's plantation. After the lines were redrawn Biggs represented Martin County and Mayo represented Edgecombe County, where his property now was located. It is said that the new boundary was celebrated with a huge barbecue on Colonel Nathan Mayo's plantation. It is interesting to note that Judge Asa Biggs' daughter, Mary Della Biggs, married Colonel Nathan Mayo's great-great-grandson, George Adolphus Mayo. Apparently Judge Biggs and Colonel Mayo were good friends and were also relatives through this marriage.

Colonel Nathan Mayo served as Justice of the Peace in 1777, in the House of Commons in 1784, and in the Senate in 1797. He was also a member of the Conventions of 1788 and 1789 when the state of North Carolina assembled to ratify the adoption of the Federal Constitution. At this time the colonists believed that they were in danger of losing their freedoms. Their freedom of religion was one of the valued liberties they felt was in danger at that time. The Baptists were known to be ardent fighters for religious and civil liberties. Therefore, the people of North Carolina chose to send many Baptists and a select group of other influential persons to represent them at these Conventions. The Colonel was known to be a staunch Baptist and a political leader of

his time these were reasons he was chosen as a member of the delegations sent to the Conventions.

A revolt against the colonial movement toward independence from Britain and a plot to kill Colonel Nathan Mayo was promoted by Captain John Lewellyn who led the Tories of Martin County. Lewellyn was a staunch member of the Anglican Church in Hamilton, North Carolina. This operation was foiled by religious friends of the Colonel who warned him of the plan of his enemies.

Captain Lewellyn made it clear during his trial for treason that he believed the Anglican Church would cease to exist if the Colonists staunch the ideas of men such as Colonel Nathan Mayo. He was convicted of treason and then jailed in Edenton. He was later pardoned of his crimes after Colonel Nathan rode with the Captain's wife to Hillsboro, North Carolina to see Governor Richard Caswell. This clash of beliefs and ideas created a feud which actually pitted family members against one another. Captain Lewellyn's grandson, William Grimes, had married Colonel Nathan's daughter, Talitha. This family connection may have been why Colonel Nathan Mayo was helpful in obtaining the pardon for Captain Lewellyn.

Colonel Nathan Mayo converted to and was baptized in the Primitive Baptist faith. He organized the Flat Swamp Church in 1776. He served as a deacon in this church until he joined the Cross Roads Church. He joined the Cross Roads Church because it was more conveniently located for the

Colonel. He served as a deacon in the Cross Roads Church until his death.

The Colonel was as active in his church as he was in his fight for liberty. He often presided over the Kehukee Association (a Baptist Church association.) He was also a co-author of the marriage bill in the Baptist church. The plan replaced the marriage service formerly performed only by ordained ministers of the Anglican Church. The History of the Kehukee Association states about Colonel Nathan Mayo, "He served much in each church as deacon, and as long as his mental faculties were retained, the subject of religion was the burden of his song" (191).

The home of Colonel Nathan Mayo no longer exists. The location of his grave is not known. Family members have stated that they heard his gravesite may be one of several unmarked graves at a place called "Fountain Crossroads" in Edgecombe County, North Carolina between Tarboro and Oak City heading toward the town of Hassell.

It is said that Nathan Mayo was loved by many. An unknown friend is quoted as having said that Colonel Nathan Mayo was "an honest man, the noble work of God."

Descendants of Colonel Nathan Mayo

- 4) William Hyman was raised by Colonel Nathan Mayo after his widowed mother married the Colonel. William was born in 1777, he died in 1836. He would have been 59 at the time of his death. William married the niece of his

step-father, Frances "Frankey" Mayo. William became a Baptist minister. Thus, in documents he is referred to as Elder William Hyman.

5) There are no records of Nathan Mayo, Jr. ever having been married or having descendants. It is believed he died in Edgecombe County around 1822. A deed dated 1824 mentions his name and notes that he was deceased at the time of the deed. Other deeds filed in Edgecombe County indicate that he either mortgaged or lost all the land he had inherited from his father. Court documents indicate that his land was auctioned at the courthouse in Tarboro. They also show that John L. Mayo was the highest bidder. John L. Mayo may have been his nephew, the son of Fredrick Mayo.

6) Micajah Mayo was born on August 25, 1768. He died on April 2, 1821 at the age of 52. Micajah married Bethiah Sherrod. They had the following children:

- i. Julia (Polly) Mayo
- ii. Talitha Mayo
- iii. William Thomas Mayo
- iv. Kitchen (Kinchen) Mayo
- v. Micajah Mayo, Jr.

Micajah married Martha Nancy Pippen after the death of his first wife. Martha Nancy Pippen was born in 1780, she died in 1854 at the age of 74. The children of Micajah and Martha Nancy were:

- i. Mary Williams Mayo
- ii. Temperance (Tempy) Mayo
- iii. Lucretia Mayo
- iv. Harriet Penelope

7) Talitha (also written as Tabitha or Tabithia) Mayo was the daughter of Colonel Nathan Mayo who married the grandson of Captain Lewellyn. She was born on March 28, 1770 and died September 29 1855. She was 85 years old. Talitha married William Grimes on March 19, 1795. She was 25 years old, he was 26. William was born on January 3, 1769, he died on November 3, 1850 at the age of 81. They had two children:

- i. Lydia Grimes
- ii. Temperance Grimes

8) John Williams Mayo was born April 13, 1772, he died February 3, 1825 at the age of 52. He first married Cathren (Cate) Sherrod, the sister of Bethiah Sherrod, the first wife of Micajah Mayo. The children of John Williams and Cate were:

- i. Lawrence Mayo
- ii. James Mayo
- iii. Fredrick Williams Mayo
- iv. Merina Bembrey Mayo
- v. Nancy Southerland Mayo*

* I question the validity of this daughter being that of Cate and John Williams. Although, family members claim she was the daughter of John Williams' first wife.

After the death of Cate, John Williams married Nancy Southerland Dale Coakley, a widow. Nancy was born on June 24, 1790 in Pennsylvania, she died on June 18, 1865 in Martin County, North Carolina just days short of her 75th birthday.

The children of John Williams Mayo and Nancy Southerland Dale

Coakley were:

- i. Louisa C. Mayo
- ii. Benjamin Coakley Mayo
- iii. Thomas Mayo
- iv. Mary Ann Mayo
- v. Sally Elizabeth Mayo
- vi. Martha E. C. Mayo
- vii. William C. Mayo

The will of John Williams Mayo was probated in Edgecombe County in 1825. His will was not witnessed and was proved by the oath of John L. Southerland who was possibly a relative of his wife, Nancy. William Mayo and one of his brothers, Thomas, were not mentioned in the will of their father. However, Benjamin Coakley Mayo, the first son of John Williams, related a story to his wife and children of two of his brothers having moved West when they were young men. He told members of his family that William was one of the two brothers. It is assumed that Thomas was the other. It is believed that William moved to Henry County, Tennessee.

9) Fredrick Mayo married, however, there are no records of who his wife was and when they married. He died on December 27, 1802. His will notes that these were his children:

- i. Susanna Mayo
- ii. John Lewellyn Mayo
- iii. Asa Johnson Mayo

Fifth Generation

11) Julia Mayo was called by her nickname Polly. She married Winfield D. Staton. It is not known if they had children.

12) Talitha Mayo was born on July 4, 1790. She died on September 1, 1866 at the age of 76. She married Joseph John Pippen. Joseph John was born on September 1, 1796 in Edgecombe County, North Carolina. He died on October 24, 1853 at the age of 57. Talitha and Joseph John had twelve children:

- i. Bethiah Matilda Pippen
- ii. Catherine Emily Pippen (b. 5-22-1816 d. 5-1-1872)
- iii. John Williams Pippen (b. 9-25-1828 d. 4-2-1880)
- iv. William Mayo Pippen
- v. Flavius A. Pippen (b. 8-9-1832 d. 6-13-1861)
- vi. Joseph Henry Pippen
- vii. James Spencer Pippen
- viii. Cullen A. Pippen (b. 7-25-1840 d. 10-2-1861)
- ix. Nathan Knight Pippen
- x. Talitha Lucretia Malvina Pippen
- xi. Nancy Jane Pippen
- xii. Elizabeth E. Pippen

The home of Joseph John and Talitha is located in Tarboro on Highway 44 at the intersection of Roberson School Road. The home was renovated during the 1980's. This home is now the home of one of the descendants of a son of Joseph John and Talitha, William Charles Overman. The Pippen family graveyard still exists and is maintained on the property. The markers of Joseph John Pippen, his wife Talitha, his three unmarried sons Cullen, Flavius, and John are located in the gravesite. There is also a grave marked "Joseph H. Pippen, Born July 25, 1858 Died June 1862." This is believed to be the grave of another child who died in his youth.

The land on which this family lived was inherited by Joseph John from his father, Joseph. Joseph John left the land in his will to his wife and son Cullen. His other holdings were divided among his remaining sons, his

slaves were divided among his daughters.

One of the first private schools in Edgecombe County was established on his land in 1827. The founders of the school included Joseph John Pippen, Allen Jones, Asa Jones, and others. It was called the Columbia Academy.

The seven sons evidently had dark complexions, black hair, and dark eyes. A family story is related about how the sons appeared after a funeral of another Pippen. The boys were all dressed in dark suits and were all sitting on a fence when a friend of the family called them the "seven blackbirds."

Another story that circulates the family is that Nathan Knight Pippen was claimed by the slaves to have special healing powers because he was the seventh son. This was a superstition the slaves circulated among themselves.

Joseph John evidently had high expectations of his family and their spouses. It is said he did not approve of the marriages of his daughters Bithiah and Elizabeth. Bithiah married a wealthy land owner from Martin County, Lunsford Rhodes Brown. Elizabeth married David Cobb of Mildred, North Carolina. Joseph John is quoted as having said that as long as she was "marrying a Cobb, why couldn't she get one with some corn on it." It is believed he was referring to his lack of wealth. The Cobb family owned a plantation outside of Tarboro. Even though he did not approve of the marriage of Bithiah and Lunsford he gave land to the couple. The deed in Martin County reads: "I, Joseph

John Pippen of Edgecombe County...for the love and affection which I bear unto my beloved daughter Bethiah Matilda Brown and my son-in-law Lunsford R. Brown, both of Martin County...a tract of land lying in Martin County." This deed was filed in October of 1838. Apparently, Joseph John was outspoken, most people understood his comments about his sons-in-law as being an indication of how much he cherished his daughters.

Four of the Pippen sons served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. It is believed that Cullen, Flavius, Spencer, and Nathan Knight served in the same company and regiment. It is known that Spencer served in the 75th N.C. Two of the sons, Cullen and Flavius, died because of ailments contracted while in active duty in the Civil War.

13) William Thomas Mayo, Sr. was born in Pitt County, North Carolina. He married Mary Williams Bryan of Edgecombe County, North Carolina. They had ten children:

- i. Dr. William Thomas Mayo, II
- ii. Mary Dorsen Mayo
- iii. Martha Dorien Mayo
- iv. Laura Mayo (died 1837)
- v. Dempsey Mayo (died 1835 in infancy)
- vi. James Macajah Mayo
- vii. Hugh Blair Mayo (b. 1840 d. 1861)
- viii. Dempsey Virginius Mayo (b. 1845 d. 1872)*
- ix. Laura Virginius Mayo (b. 1845 d. 1863)*
- x. Otho Logan Mayo (b. 1856 d. 1883)

William Thomas was a farmer in Tarboro. He belonged to the Methodist Church.

14) Kitchen Mayo married Nancy Knight. This couple moved to Gibson County, Tennessee.

15) Micajah Mayo, Jr. married Mary Ann Watson. Mary Ann gave birth to four children, however, none of these lived to maturity. The couple lived in Edgecombe County.

16) Mary Williams "Polly" Mayo was born in 1802, she died in 1869. She married Kenneth Bembrey. Polly's grave is located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina on the V. W. Land place.

17) Harriet Penelope Mayo was born in 1815, she died in 1860. At the age of 24 she married Joshua Lawrence. They had four children:

- i. Dr. John Lawrence
- ii. Lewis Harvey Lawrence
- iii. Thaddeus Mayo Lawrence
- iv. Micajah Thomas Lawrence

18) Benjamin Coakley Mayo was born on September 14, 1817. He died on July 9, 1881 at the age of 63. He married Evelina Staton Jones on January 18, 1844. Evelina was born on July 26, 1820, she died on July 21, 1874. The had the following children:

- i. Onsler McGilbrey Mayo (b. 1-22-1845 d. 12-23-1919)
- ii. Louisa Tabithia Mayo
- iii. Columbus Washington Mayo
- iv. Nathan Jones Mayo (b. 6-19-1853 d. 1-31-1924)
- v. Lucy Valeria Mayo (b. 7-8-1855 d. 10-24-1892)
- vi. Anna(ie) Matella Mayo (b. 8-27-1858 d. 9-2-1870)
- vii. Beny(ie) Eveline(a) Mayo

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE JOHN WILLIAMS MAYO FAMILY BIBLE

Upper Left:

Benjamin Coakley Mayo, son of John Williams Mayo and Nancy Southerland Dale Coakley. He married Evelina Staton Jones, the daughter of Allen Jones and Tabitha Staton.

Upper Right:

Evelina Staton Jones Mayo, wife of Benjamin Coakley Mayo. The young child is Anna Matella Mayo.

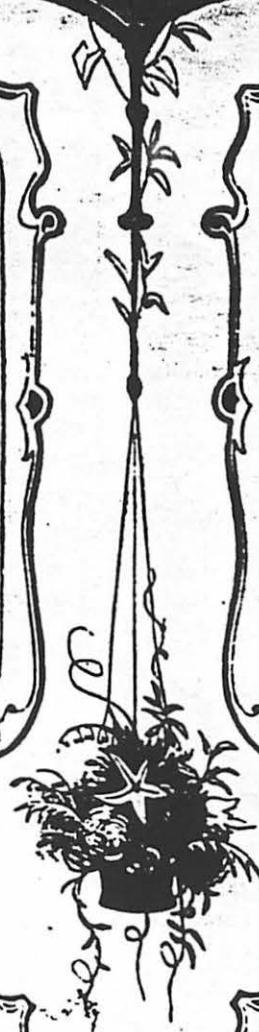
Lower Left:

Nathan Jones Mayo, son of Benjamin Coakley Mayo and Evelina Staton Jones.

Lower Right:

Columbus Washington Mayo, son of Benjamin Coakley Mayo and Evelina Staton Jones.

FAMILY PORTRAITS



PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE JOHN WILLIAMS MAYO FAMILY BIBLE

Upper Left:

Maude Mooring, a cousin of the daughters of Benjamin Coakley Mayo.

Upper Right:

Lucy Valeria Mayo, daughter of Benjamin Coakley Mayo and Evelina Staton Jones.

Lower Left:

Mary George Pippen, daughter of Joseph Henry Pippen and Sarah Elizabeth Cherry. She was the granddaughter of Joseph John Pippen and Talitha Mayo.

Lower Right:

Group picture: Left to Right - Lucy Valeria Mayo, Bennie Evelina Mayo, Maude Mooring

Note: The handwriting on this page and page 20 is that of Lillie Mayo Jones McBride, the owner of this family Bible.

FAMILY PORTRAITS

wanted to
write on this
copy



Maude
Mooring



John Mayo
son of C W Mayo
of Elizabeth
she was
sister of
my
mother
she
died
in
1911



Mary George Pippers - her
moach was a Cherry



Lucy
Valeria
Mayo
sister of
C W Mayo

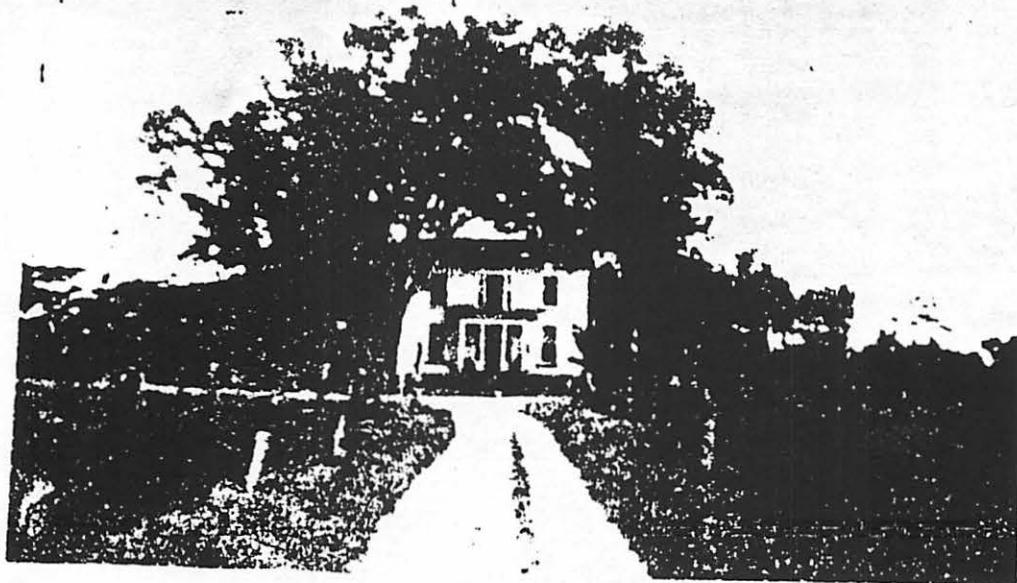
Maude
Mooring

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE LUNSFORD RHODES BROWN HOME

This home was built many years before the Civil War. It is now owned by Lou Brown Mayo Moomaw of Lynchburg, Virginia, who inherited it from her father, George Brown. It is located between Palmyra and Hamilton, North Carolina. About three miles from the town of Oak City.

The plantation has always been owned by the Brown family. It is land acquired around 1770 by William Reading Brown. The old mansion was built by Lunsford Brown for his bride, Bethia Matilda Pippen. They were married in 1834.

Note: The handwriting on this page is that of Lillie Mayo Jones McBride, the owner of this family Bible.



The old Lunsford Brown
mansion.

Very
Sincerely



This is to Certify that the following is an accurate
copy from records in the official custody of the
North Carolina Historical Commission.

Certificates paid the Comptroller by John Haywood public Treasurer
in the fall of the year 1791.

Nathan Mayo

E 12.17.6

E 5.1.3

From: North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts,
Vol. VII, page 25, folio 1.

Raleigh February 4th, 1928.

A. L. Murrison

Secretary

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Biggs, Elder Joseph. History of the Kehukee Baptist Association. Tarboro: George Howard Office of the Tarborough Free Press. 1834.

Edgecombe County Bicentennial Commission. The Edgecombe Story. 1976.

Genealogical Charts. In possession of Pete Austin, 204 Courtney Lane, Matthews, NC 28105.

Mayo Family Bible. In possession of Lillie Mayo Jones McBride, 722 Eastern Avenue, Rocky Mount, NC 27801.

Mayo, Miriam Scott. Personal Interview. 20 October 1993.

McBride, Lillie Mayo Jones. Personal Interviews. 19 October and 8 November, 1993.

Williams, Ruth Smith and Margarette Glenn Griffin. Bible Records of Early Edgecombe. Rocky Mount: Dixie Letter Service. 1958.

ECC LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER



3 3167 00029 9543