

Burke Co. Georgia

And it's many puzzles

By Jerome Tew

The 1944 DAR application of Bennie Watkins Wall names Johnathan Royal 1762-1840 as a member of the Georgia Continental Line in the Revolutionary War. Mrs. Wall 1882- was married to George Clyde Wall 1881- and they lived in Dawson, Terrell Co. GA. Mrs. Wall stated that this RS lived in Burke Co. GA during the RW.

Since Burke Co. GA is a double-burn CH county, these type of papers are a gold mine of information. Mrs. Wall also refers to a family Bible for some of her information. I was excited for the Burke cousins over this new information.

A John Royal is listed in the 1820 and 1830 US Census for Burke. He is listed as being born 22 Dec 1762 and marrying in 1795 and dying on 8 July 1838 in Houston Co. GA. He married Rebecca Godbee and she was the daughter of RS William and Mary Bargarton Godbee, he also served in the RW and as a Lieutenant in the Burke Militia. Rebecca Godbee was born 10 Apr 1777 and married 17 Apr 1795 in Burke. She died 1861 in Houston Co. GA

From this marriage came Mary Ann Royal who was born 28 Dec 1806. Mary Ann married John Turner Moore in 1825 and they had Rebecca Jane Moore on 22 Jan 1832. Rebecca Jane Moore married 10 Mar 1853 to Gilbert D. Leggett. Mary Ann Royal Moore Murph died 23 Mar 1851. Rebecca Jane had Rebecca Leggett in 1862. Rebecca Leggett married Z. B. Watkins and Rebecca Leggett had Bennie Watkins in 1882.

The information posted on WorldConnect by Henrietta Royal is mostly in agreement with the DAR application. Below are the children listed online for John Royal and Rebecca Godbee Royal.

1. [Elizabeth ROYAL](#) b: 1802
2. [Fielding Cary ROYAL](#) b: 1804
3. [Mary Ann ROYAL](#) b: 28 DEC 1808

4. [James Henry ROYAL](#) b: 15 JAN 1811 in ,Burke Co., GA
5. [Isaac Harrison ROYAL](#) b: 15 JAN 1815.

This is not the end of this story. Before 1830, Stephen Royal (1796), ASA Royal (1786), and Isaac Royal (1804), moved from Burke Co. GA to Houston County. By 1840 Fielding C. Royal and John S. Royal had also moved to Houston Co. GA and near Asa. Daniel Royal had moved from Burke, but to Lowndes Co. AL. Isaac H. Royal was not married in 1840 but married 26 Jan 1845 to Nancy Smith in Houston.

By 1850 Daniel Royal had moved to Russell Co. AL and in 1851 he moved to Taylor Co. GA and then in 1859 to Sumter Co. GA. ASA aka ACY Royal, Ezekiel Royal, Stephen Royal, and Isaac Royal (1804) had moved to Marion Co. GA. Asa purchased 202 acres of land in Marion in 1850 for \$1835 and Stephen purchased 202 acres in 1851 for \$1200. Stephen Royal (1796) is not found after about 1855 in Marion. John Royal 1762- had died in 1838 and Rebecca Royal was living with son Isaac H. Royal (1815) in Houston Co. GA. Fielding C. Royal was also still in Houston. John S. Royal had taken his family and moved to Ware Co. near Waycross and then settled in Coffee Co. GA. Doing the math, Isaac (1804) cannot be placed by me. He likely was living with John Royal in 1820. He had moved to Colquitt Co. in 1860. Stephen Royal (1796) is not the son of ASA, therefore he must be the son of John & Rebecca. I am not sure about Ezekiel Royal (1807-1877), most likely was an orphan. James H. Royal (1811) was a large land owner and did not move from Burke. James was one of the few common family names.

By 1860, Rebecca Godbee Royal was 83 and Daniel Royal was now in Sumter GA and had a son named Asa Royal. The family unit had already begun to dissolve.

In 1820 John Royal 1762- was in Burke and had six males with him and five being 16 or under. Asa Royal 1786- had two young males and John S. Royal 1784- had three young males at home.

Apparently, Mrs. Wall saw John Royal as short for Johnathan Royal. I believe John Royal 1762 of Burke was married twice and that John S. Royal 1784- and Asa Royal 1786- were also his sons. I also believe that John 1762 was the son of John Royal 1729- of Onslow Co. NC and he moved to Burke Co. area of GA in 1758. He married about 1750 and had three children when he moved. One of his children born in GA was John Royal, born 22 Dec 1762. If you would like a copy of the DAR file for Johnathan Royal, contact JTew. A copy will be posted on the Royal CD.

The name Harrison is connected some how to this family and his first wife might have been a Harrison. Four Harrison families lived in Bulloch Co. GA in 1820. I then place the children of John Royal 1762- and his first wife as:

1. John S. Royal 1784-1859.
2. ASA Royal 1786-1856.

I place the children of John Royal and Rebecca Godbee Royal as:

3. Stephen Royal 1796-1850+
4. Daniel Royal 1798-1864.
5. Martha Royal Murray 1800-1864
6. Elizabeth Pharebe Royal Allen 1802-
7. Fielding Cary Royal 1804-1860+
8. Mary Ann Royal Moore Murph 1806-1851
9. James Henry Royal 1811-1879
10. Isaac Harrison Royal 1815-1864

The above Martha Royal 3 Apr 1800--18 Mar 1864 is listed in Murray-Royal Bible, posted on Taylor Co. GA website, Martha married John Murray on 10 April 1817 in Burke Co. GA.

This is still not the end of this story. To properly resolve this matter and make sure this RS Johnathan Royal is properly identified with a proper grave stone, I contacted the GA-DAR and they referred me to the GA-SAR or Sons of the American Revolution. I contacted Dr. Christopher Stokes of the Washington Memorial Library in Macon GA.

I sent Dr. Stokes some details from the DAR application and the below RW information pertaining to the RS.

"At a Council, July 5th, 1776 Ordered that commissions be issued for Francis Stringer, as Captain; John Ryal, First Lieutenant; and William Ryal, Third Lieutenant, of a Company of Militia in Lower District of St. George's Parish."
NOTE: St. George's Parish became Burke County.

Following from General abstracts from the Georgia Journal(Milledgeville) News-paper 1809-1840, Vol 5:

"Departed this life on the 8th day of July, 1838, at his residence in Houston County, Georgia, after many painful years of affliction of the rheumatism, John Royal, Esq., in the 68th (sic 76th) year of his age, formerly of Burke County, Georgia, leaving a tender wife and five children."

He said, hold it. They do not make First lieutenants from 14 year old boys.

And there is no reference to him being a RS in the published obit.

And also, Dr. Stokes found a Jonathan Royal in the GA 1820 land lottery and he was a RS and he lived in Richmond Co. GA.

It became clear then that Mrs. Wall got two men mixed up. She clearly descends from John Royal 1762-1838 of Burke Co. and Houston Co. GA. This is not uncommon in places where good records are lacking. I do not think that Mrs. Wall ever knew that she applied to the DAR with two men mixed up as one RS.

So who was the Lt. John Ryal and Lt. William Ryal in the above RW Burke Militia in 1776? This John Ryal can only be the man that others say died in c1774. This is the John Royal Sr. who was born before 1730 in NC and moved to GA in 1758 with his wife and three children. This is the father of Lt. William Royal, who was one of these three children born in NC. Then in GA, John Royal 1762-1838 was born, and likely the Stephen Royal in Burke Co. 1790 to 1810 was also his son.

The above 3rd Lt. William Royal 1750-1818 is also DAR approved and his wife is listed as Sarah. I have not seen his DAR file. He died 29 Mar 1818. William Godbee is not DAR approved.

SO where does this leave us? John Royal Sr., William Royal, William Godbee, and Arthur Royal are proven to have served in the RW. John Royal 1762-1838 is not proven to have served in the RW, Johnathan Royal, who ever he is, is approved by the DAR. Mrs. Wall did good to record some family history, in spite of the fact she does not descend from Johnathan Royal. Likely someone does.

So who was Jonathan Royal? There was a Joseph Ryals 1727-1781 of Johnston Co. NC. Joseph Sr. had Charles, William 1748-1828, Ann, Isom 1770-1829 m: Patty Rowline in 1797 and moved to MO, Jonathan c1755, and Joseph Jr. c1773. William, Charles 1760-, Jonathan, and Joseph Sr. were in the Revolutionary War. In 1790, Charles m: Alice Baggett and William m: Edith Childs. He and most of the family moved to Cumberland County NC and then to Georgia around 1810. William Ryals moved to Montgomery Co. GA and for sure Jonathan Ryals moved to Richmond Co. GA. Their mother was Sarah Ryal or Ryals of Johnston Co. NC. She died in 1789. Some men in NC and VA were recruited by GA Officers to serve on

the GA Line. Jonathan Ryals could have served that way as there is not much in NC about his service. Mrs. Wall stated that Jonathan served on the GA Line.

Sarah Royal of Burke mystery:

Sarah Royal in listed in the 1827 land Lottery as being a widow of a RW soldier. She is listed in the 1830 US Census and appears to be 70 years old and born 1760. There was a Samuel Royal in the Burke Co. 1820 and he is listed with a wife and two older males in his family. He was over 45 years old. The 1790 and 1810 US Census for GA were lost in the War of 1812. The children of Samuel as listed by researchers are:

1. [Samuel ROYAL](#) b: in ,GA
2. [Arthur ROYAL](#) b: ABT. 1798 in ,Burke Co., GA
3. [Mary ROYAL](#) b: 1798 in ,Burke Co., GA
4. [Louis Maran ROYAL](#) b: 16 MAR 1806 in ,Burke Co., GA
5. [Sarah Martha ROYAL](#) b: 1808 in ,Burke Co., GA
6. [William Triplett ROYAL](#) b: 17 FEB 1808 in ,Burke Co., GA
7. [Caroline ROYAL](#) b: 1809 in ,Burke Co., GA
8. [Elizabeth ROYAL](#) b: 1814 in ,Burke Co., GA

However, Samuel Royal in the 1820 census had two males at home...over 18 years of age. He did have two females who could be as listed. But listed are three females 12 or less. I know that Samuel Royal, the bother of Arthur #1, came to GA and left his will in Bulloch Co. GA. I also believe that Arthur Royal #1 had a son named Samuel Royal. I cannot say which Samuel is connected to the above family.

The above Sarah Royal is listed by researchers as the widow of RS William Royal and for sure was the older brother of John Royal 1762. RS

William Royal died on 29 Mar 1818. The identity of some of these Royal children born around 1800 is not firm, due to burned records. This RS William Royal is DAR approved. I wonder if he has a grave stone in Burke.

Moses Royal 1812 of Burke Co. in 1850 is for sure part of the family of the above Arthur Royal. He is not the son of the above Samuel, but likely the son to Charles David Royal, the youngest son of Arthur Royal, born 1770. He could not be the son of Arthur Royal 1798-, who disappeared after 1830. This Arthur Royal could be the son of Samuel Royal. Arthur's widow was Mary Hayes Royal age 52 in the Burke Co. 1850 US Census. In 1830 Arthur Royal is listed with four children, all 10 or under. In 1840, Mary had two children less than five. Likely Arthur Royal died about 1839.

Living next to Samuel in 1820 was Seaborn Royal, then about 40 years old. There was also a Seth Royal in 1850 who was born in 1790. He had a son named Seaborn. Seaborn is listed by researchers as the son of RS William Royal. Seth Royal and Moses Royal lived near each other in the 1840 US Census. However, Seaborn was a common name in Burke Co. GA in 1850. There were over 400 males then in Georgia named Seaborn and only two in North Carolina. There were 19 males named Seaborn in Burke. Burke Co. GA Royal researchers, what say you? Is there a Grave Stone for John Royal in Houston Co. GA?

The Children of RS Johnathan Royal as listed in the DAR application: (Johnathan was not listed as John in the DAR application and Johnathan Royal is not listed in the US Census or Burke Co. Militia records. Johnathan likely died about 1825. The Johnathan Royal listed in the DAR file is not the John Royal in the US Census.) All below, from the DAR application, are children of John Royal 1762-1838.

James Royal, Isaac Royal m: Nancy Smith, Elizabeth Pherabe Royal m: Hugh Allen, Mary Ann Royal m: Moore, and Hulding C. (Fielding C.) Royal.

Hugh Allen 1796- and Elizabeth Pherabe Royal Allen lived in Houston Co. GA 1840-60.

Gilbert D. and Rebecca J. Leggett lived in Macon GA in 1860.

G. Clyde and wife Bennie W. Wall lived in Dawson, Terrell Co. GA in 1930. Clyde Wall was a merchant.

Marriages In Houston Co. GA

William A. H. Royal (1822) to Elizabeth J. Smith. Dec. 1, 1846. This man was the son of Asa Royal and he moved his family to Taylor Co. GA. See his Will in Royal NL 2002Apr issue. Elizabeth was a sister to Nancy Smith. This man, William Alexander Harrison Royal, died 31 Oct 1888. William Royal (1824) to Sarah Ann Overstreet on Mar 14, 1845. This man was the son of John S. Royal. See Royal NL 2002 Jan issue. They settled in Coffee Co. GA. John S. Royal was a JP in 1840 for Houston Co. GA. Sarah Ann was the daughter of Moses Overstreet.

Isaac H. Royal to Nancy Smith on Jan 25, 1845. This man was the youngest son of John Royal and Rebecca Godbee Royal. Isaac was 30 and Nancy was 15 when they got married. Isaac apparently died in the War as Nancy Royal was a widow and lived in Houston in 1870 and 1880. She taught all her girls to make dresses. Nancy was the daughter of David O. Smith. Stephen Royal 1796- inherited land in Burke for his wife Candis. The land came from widow Mary Elizabeth Ellibys in 1831. Mrs. Ellibys drew land in the 1820 LL. Mary Ann Moore's husband died about 1837. She had

three children and married Conrad Murph about 1844.

Thanks also to George Royal for his Taylor Co. GA Royal post. Other Royal family history can be found on the Taylor Co. GA Web Site.

(Minutes of the Executive Council, Savannah, GA 12th October 1784
This day His Honor the Governor, in Council, signed the following grants, to wit: William Godbe. 200 acres in Burke County.

RW Soldier's Graves in GA

From # 98 Burke County

31. WILLIAM GODBEE b. c1740 d. 1800

Served as 1st Lieutenant in the 13th Company of the Burke County, Georgia.

Militia commanded by Captain Robert Henderson and Colonel John Thomas. He was later certified as a Revolutionary War Soldier by General John Twiggs and received bounty land along Town's Creek in old Washington County for his services. He lived along Briar Creek.)

The 1798 tax list for Burke Co. GA:

ROYAL, JOHN DISTRICT 43B

ROYAL, SOLOMON DIST. 44B

ROYAL, STEPHEN DISTRICT 43B

ROYAL, WILLIAM DISTRICT 43B

RYALL, ARTHUR

Isaac and Stephen Royal mystery

The orphans of Stephen Royal and Isaac Royal drew land in the 1827 land lottery in Houston Co. GA. Since we believe that John Royal also had two sons name Isaac and Stephen Royal, we feel that these two men were brothers of John Royal 1762. I think Isaac (1804) was the son of this Isaac Royal. This Isaac 1804 was likely living with John Royal 1762-1838 in 1820. It maybe that the mom had

already remarried and John was raising some of the orphans. Stephen Royal is listed in the 1798 Burke tax list and is in Burke until after 1810. For both orphan families to move to Houston, means that John was raising some of them. Stephen, Asa, and Isaac Royal in 1830 Houston are two brothers and Isaac 1804. Isaac appears to have had a sister in 1830c. Ezekiel 1807 is listed by some as the son of Stephen. That will not compute. Ezekiel 1807, who married Mary Ann Murray, was one of the orphans.

Will of John Royal

Dated 11 April 1837 and probated 24 Sep 1838.

To Wife Rebecca: two Negros Major and Jack, my Barouche (carriage), one bed and furniture, half my cattle, half my land, and 2% on the value of all property. (The children are to pay their mother 2% annually of the value of the property obtained from this Will)

To Hugh Allen: and his present wife seven Negros to wit: Lydin, Charlotte, Jerry, Smith, Jack, Adam, and Jimmy,

To son Huldin C.: acquittance for all land and property in Burke County that I loaned him in July 1830 in presence of Dr. Tessier and William C. Bates.

To son Isaac: my boy Bachus.

To Mary Ann Moore: three Negros to wit: Ginsy, Martin, and Fillis, and half my land, half of my cattle and hogs.

To Norcessa H. Hurst: a girl Esther, as reimbursement for work of her Negro Sam about six years in Houston County.

To F. (ielding) C. Royal, James H. Royal, Mary Ann Moore, and Isaac H. Royal: all the other property and that bequeathed to wife Rebecca at the time of her death.

Exec: Friends Anthony M. Thompson and Isaac H. Royal. Wit. Maria Allen, James P. Allen, and Anthony M. Thompson JP.

NOTE: Hulding C. Royal is also listed as Fielding C. Royal.

The below Barouche or Carriage listed in John Royal's will is most likely the same Barouche that is listed in the 1758 Will of Carey Godby/Godbee of Onslow Co. NC and left in his will to son William who moved to GA. William Godbee was the father of Rebecca Royal.



Finally, After removing themselves from Burke, the family of John Royal leaves not many to be the descendants of Arthur Royal #1, Arthur had moved from Onslow Co. NC to GA in 1764. We have Seth 1791, Arthur 1798, Samuel 1804, Louis 1806, William T. 1808, and Moses Royal 1812. We also have Mary, the Widow, of 1820 and 1830. Doing the math, I do not think that Samuel Royal had children born after 1800. Mary had three sons born after 1800.

So who was the husband of Mary Royal? I put her YOB at 1775-80. Could then she be the Widow of Charles David Royal 1770-, the youngest son of Arthur Royal #1? Some Family researches put William T. Royal as the son of

Samuel Royal Jr. This is hard to prove without the 1800 and 1810 US Census and burned deeds and wills.

Some researchers put John S. Royal 1784-1859 as the son of John Royal 1731 (brother to Arthur). The same folks say that John 1731 died about 1774. DO THE MATH. We now know that John Sr. was alive in 1776.

OLD DAR files cannot be use for new applications. Prove anew

To Order a DAR file, send \$10 to: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Office of the Registrar General Attn: Record Copy
1776 D Street NW Washington DC 2006-5303

**Thomas RYALL or ROYALL
And Isabel Ryall 1709Will**

1. JOHN ROYALL 1658-
2. Charles Ryall 1680-1755 m: Ann _____

1. **John Royal**
m: ___Hardy
Cornelius
Royal & Anne
Barnesfeld
1. **John Royal**
1716-1795
2. **Wm Royal**
1718-1795
Pasquotank &
Sampson Co.

2. **Charles Royal**
1. Sarah Royal 1724-
2. **Arthur Royal** &
Susanna COX
3. **John Royal** 1728-
4. **Samuel** Royal
5. Charles Royal
6. Thomas Royal
**Bertie & Onslow
NC & Burke GA**



James Henry Royal 1811-1879 Burke Co. GA:
Photo by ROBERT TALIAFERRO