



REVOLUTIONARY DESCENT

André Kearns

June 28, 2025

A look back at my Junion talks

2022

My Family Connection to Cedar Grove

2023

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The Remarkable Life of Wiliam B. Harvell

2024



Tracing an Emancipated Family through the 1870 Census



My Patriot Ancestor

Meet Henry

How I Achieved Membership

Why I Sought Membership

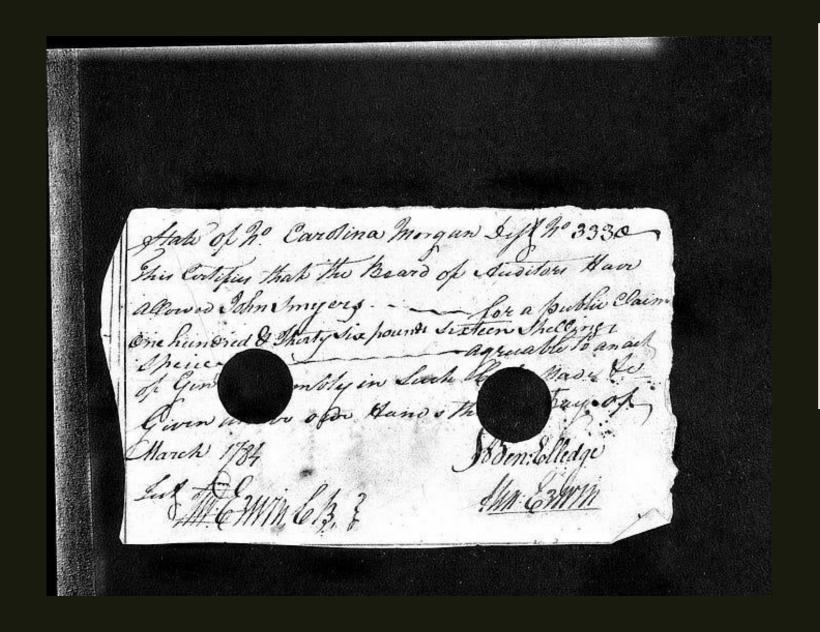
Connecting with Extended Family

A Pilgrimage to Lincolnton

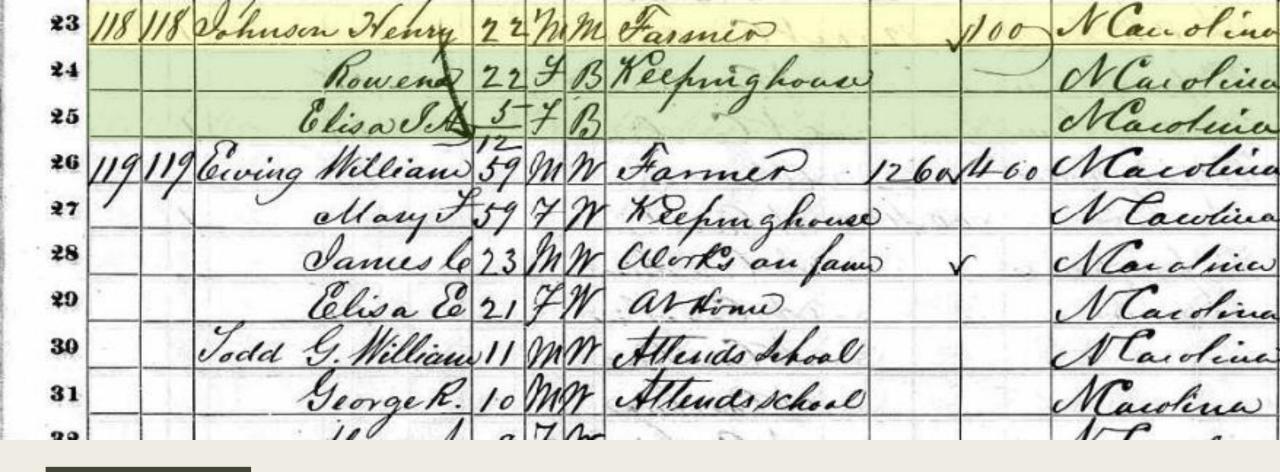
Some Exciting Announcements

Feel free to ask questions along the way!

Discussion Topics



My Patriot Ancestor: **Johannes** Schmeirer (1740-1846)



Meet Henry Johnston (b. 1848)

How I Achieved Membership into SAR

How to submit a successful application

Determine requirements for admission

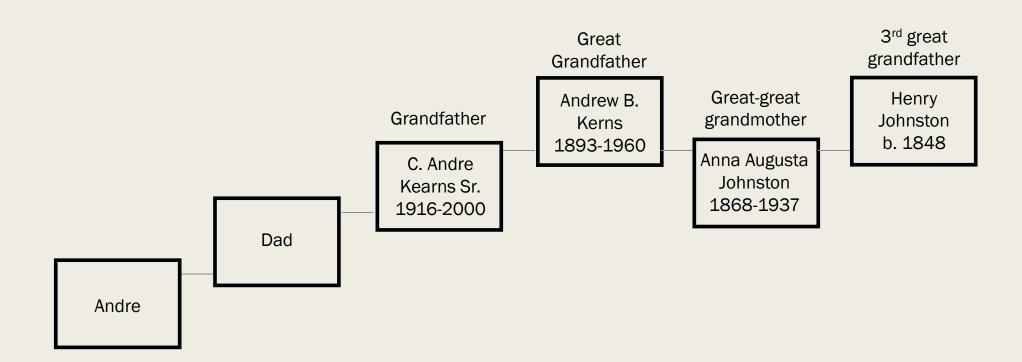
Review previous applications to know where to start

Organize and conduct your research

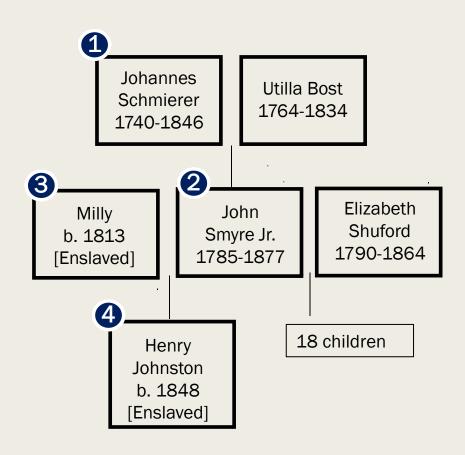
Build proof summaries to fill in documentation gaps Compile research into documented application for admission

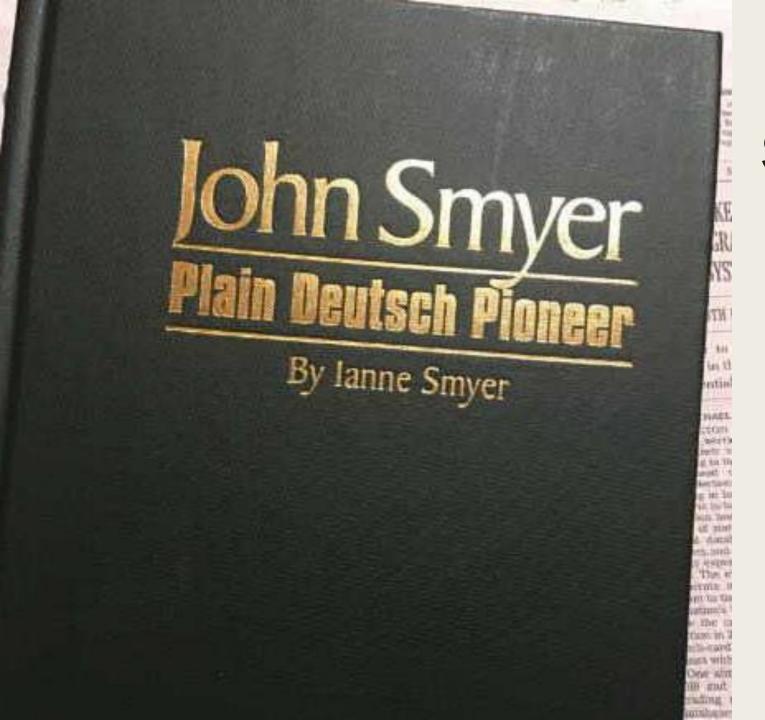
Every generation tracing back to your patriot ancestor most be documented or proven

Kearns Family Tree



Henry Johnston's Ancestry





1. Johannes Schmierer [Henry's grandfather]

- He lived on the eastern bank of South Fork of Catawba River near Lincolnton with wife Ultilla and family
- He was likely a Palatine, an early 18th century emigrant from the Middle Rhine region
- He was landowner, farmer, mill operator, logger, woodworker, merchant, Revolutionary War patriot and an enslaver

have heretofore said, and it is just what we have heretofore said, and what every one must say, if he will take the trouble to examine Senator Merrimon's record. A truer or abler man lives not in North Carolina.—

Salisbury Examiner.

DIED.—John Smyre, a nonagenian Patriarch, who lived on the line between Lincoln and Catawba county, breathed his last on Sunday, the 25th ult., aged 91 years, 4 months and 12 days. He was a good, honest and upright citizen, respected by all his neighbors. May his honored ashes rest in peace.— Lincoln Progress.

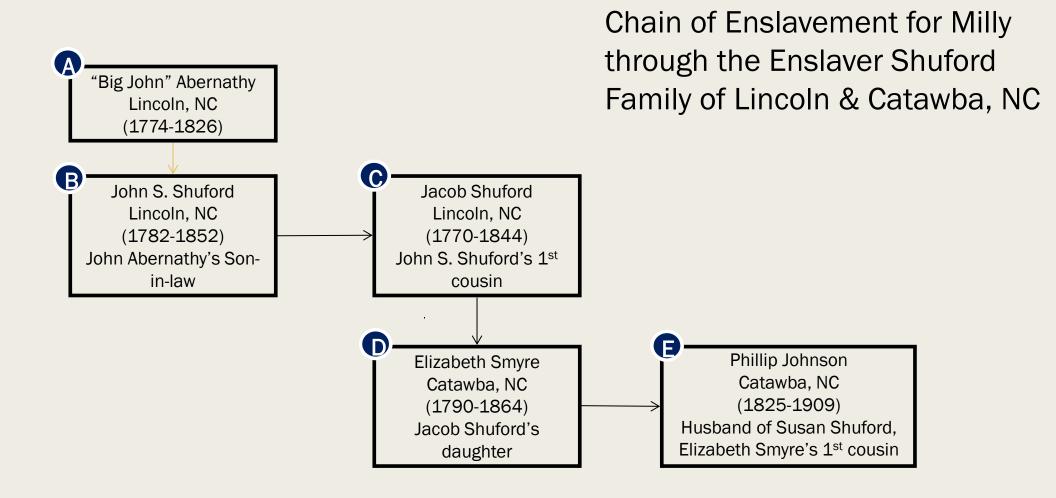
The Back-door Custom of Hotels.

How the "broken victuals" are disposed of by the Boston hotels is thus related in a recent issue of the Post: For years the tragments from the cook and carving rooms

2. John Smyre Jr. [Henry's father]

9 Mar 1877 obituary

3. Milly [Henry's Mother]





3. Milly [Henry's mother]

246/ This Is to certify that John Abernathy of the bound; of Lineith and State of North Carolina for and in con sederation of the sum of One Hundred and fifty Dollars aswellas for the good will and affection he beauth lowards his sonin low John Shuforce hath sole Honveyed unto the said John Shuford a certain etegro gite named elielly about Myans of agewhich Girles now in the popersion of the said John Shuforer Howhuhsaid Girl Idaherely warrant and forever defend unto the Eard John theyord his heirs and aprens forever from my selfand my heirs and from the lawful claim of every other person or persons whatsoever claiming or to claim the same In Milnely whereof I have Let my hand & Seal this 3oth day of Oilober 1824. Thre Hernathy seal Wilnel

A. "Big John" Abernathy to John Shuford

30 October 1824 Lincoln County, North Carolina deed recording the sale of "a certain Negro girl named Milley about 11 years of age" by John Abernathy to son-in-law John Shuford for \$150.

This sets Milly's birth date at 1813

Islate of North Carolina ? Lincoln County 2 Know all men by these presents that & John Thuford Sent of Limoto County et. 6. for den consideration of the sum of Lifeen Dollars by Said Shuford paid tome the recept where I the said John Shuford Sew do hereby acknowledge have granted ben gained Hold they these presents do grant bargain thele unto the said Jacob Shuford Cen. his Executors admir Lapregus forever all the goods and properly hereafter mentioned by one block one Blid Mare one lone horse wagon two bows and balves one Steer Leven head of Sheep Eight head of Hogs three beds & furniture me levols cut saw & Broad ax also my yearly rent or support Which is due me from Jacob Leonard and all the house hotel and Kilchen furniture and farming thensily all the above Artilly now in the hands or popepeou of said John Therford The premises above bargarne Hold or mentioned tobe unto the sad fact Shirford his heirs Eyes Hadnut foreve And other said John Therford for my self my Lein Exer adoners all thingular the promise and goods while the band daid Shuford his heur Executors adding against me the said tohn Shuford & from and against the claim of every hersonor hersons whatroover shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents I the said John Shuford Sent have but the said goed Shuford in popepion of he abour Mentioned Signo Seales and deliver let the presence of These Witneperthes 10th day of August 1829. Elhah Shuford John Shufore Beat Sufarma Shuford Hale of North Carolina Simeduloundy belover Seprons 1829 The within Bile of tale was provid in open bount by the Pakof Elkanah Shuford Recorded Sondered lobe registered Knowall menty these presents that I aul Harts oak of the bounty of is the and offal of Most Carolina hall bareamed soler & Deci

Vidon

B. John Shuford to Jacob Shuford

In 1829 John Shuford moves to Missouri, leaving Milly behind to his first cousin Jacob Shuford. I have uncovered no bill of sale documenting Milly's transfer, but here is 10 Aug 1829 Lincoln County deed of John Shuford selling his farm and possessions to Jacob Shuford.

44 Cet Ses 46

There - I give and bequato to my son Anauer Shufain ter Negrow now in his popeperso named hig samo and Mentino alsa a neg me + Boy Still in my own Popelino names Hnam and further I will. and liquath that out of the Promeas of a note countries at Haynwill March 16 1/837 and due on the 15 to february there after mest by Ill Godfrey. VI Damel & Al Daniel Payable in They sum of tifteen hundred dollars, to 8. Shufaco, with interest fum the cale, and endused by B. S. Shufaro without recours my Equators pay to my Jaice A nowew Shufara the Sum of Live hundres dollars and if the said note cannot be collection, there the said Anaun to loose the Live humand dollars under the sum cottested Shall amount to Lo much Fleron for my son Elkanato Shufaro & line & devises bequetto a hack of Sance & Bought of Volm Jessie. Contaming about one hundered aver Poining a track I have heretofore give him, I have already salvanced To him and for him a full that of my estato, heir therefore to Have me more of my Catato Him. - I gove ance bequath to my daughter Elizabeth Inyre you life a negro woman hance Milly & her increaces also a negro Bay named Perry now in Depolico of my Soine law John Smyce alsa a nego - gil hama Sely not in Popepion of my daughter Susanna Reinhardt. & after her death the said regives with their Increase to be divided Equally between her Children Theyo .- I give deviso & bequath to my daughter in law Phadeo Shufard (wixon & relut of my son kartin dew) dungther natural life or Wianshood a Fract of Canco Whenon The now usides Theyor as the Ruce place hounded as follows lying on the water of Lyster buck, Beginning at a stone in the forks of a land, and runs 177 10 84 Poles to a White auto them Ito 865 orles to a no auto Then 880 WHT Poles to a pino Hunce South bo Poles to a Black auto Thine - East 164 Poles to a pine & from by the race Side Theme with said Rand to the hagining Containing by estimation one hundred & Shorty ught ann and at the access or hamago of my said acustin in low, I give awiso & he swatto the along in the

C. Jacob Shuford to Elizabeth Smyre

16 Mar 1843 Catawba County, NC Will for Jacob Shuford's passing Milly to the Smyres: "I give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth [Shuford] Smyre for life a Negro woman named Milly and her increases and also Negro boy named Perry now in possession of my son in law John Smyre."

Enduring Slavery in Catawba County, NC

Narrative of

W. L. Bost

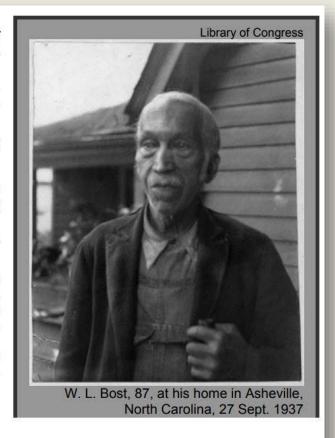
Enslaved in North Carolina, ca. 1849-1865

Interview conducted September 1937, Asheville, North Carolina

Federal Writers' Project, WPA

In the 1930s over 2,300 formerly enslaved African Americans were interviewed by members of the Federal Writers' Project, a New Deal agency in the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the Great Depression.

W. L. Bost's narrative is reproduced in full below as transcribed by the interviewer. Bracketed notes added by NHC.

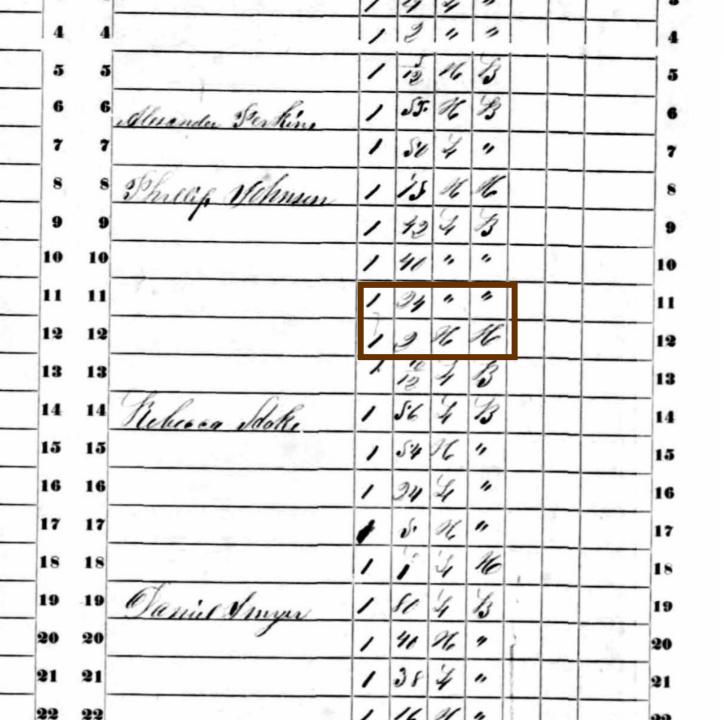


"Plenty of the colored women have children by the white men. She know better than to not do what he say. . . . Then they take them very same children what have they own blood and make slaves out of them. If the Missus find out she raise revolution. But she hardly find out. The white men not going to tell and the n**** women were always afraid to. So they jes go on hopin' that thing[s] won't be that way always."

I his Indinture made the 12th days of betobis in the year of our Las one Thousand eight hundred and forty eight Detween Abel & Shugod Eli R Shufora & Jacob & Shuford as executors of Jacob Shefora Deed of the bounty of Catauta in the state of North Carolina of the one part & Philip W. Johnson of Burk County in the state of North Carolina of the other part. Witnepeth: That the said Abel & Eli R & Jacob & Sheeford for ana, in consideration of the Sum of one thousand fire hundred Dollars to them in hand paid by the said Philip Motherson the receipt whereof the Said Abel H. Eli A. & Jacob & Shipped do hireby acknowledge hath sin granted, bargained and sola, aliened and confirmed, and by these presents doth fir, frant, bargain, and tell alien and confirm unto the said Philip M. Johnson Hirs and assigns forever all those tracts pieces or parcels of land Situate lying and being soning in the county of Catawba on the Catawba liver The first, beginning at a rea oak on the bank of the cutaute river corner of & pt perhan old tract Burns Thence with a line to sain track west 200 poles to a hickory, andacon Thence with another of said lines I.T. E. 66 poles to a dogwood facot Abernathy come Thence along his line S. 87 M. 91 poles to a small hickory on John Perhins line them with it 35 TM 26/2 poles to a while oak on Andrew Sheefords line. Thence with his line North 64 6 67 poles crossing a small branch to a dofwood his corner Thence N258 68 poles to a arguror at the branch Thence & 55 & 93 poles to a poplar on the river book Thence down the river as it hianders to the beginning containing containing 114 acres bethe Same more or less also one other track joining the about keep inning at a past out a new come of luns &. 44.80 78 poles to a small fun Shouce N. 45 & 58 poles to a 12 andrew It Shafords corner, Thence with his line N. 64. 8. 136 poles to a white och his corner, thence with his Line Jacob Abernothys & Daniel perhins S. T 8. 15 a hick ory Jonas Ramsours (now balven Wilfon), corner near a glade Thenew with his lim a new one W. 106 poles to the beginning containing 100 acres be the same more or Life and also all the woods ways water & water courses and all and every the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any will apportaining and the revision and Ecoursions remainder and remainders with issues & profits of The aforessed land and premises and every part thereof and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim, property and demand whatsoever of the said Abel St. Eli A. & Jacob It shatone of in and to the land and premises hereby granted to How and to Hold the someraid Land and premises with the appurtenances unto the said Philip (W. of Showson his heirs and assigns forever; And the said Abel & Ele & & greath theford for themselves and trainedors heirs the aforesaid land and premises and every part thereof against themselves & their heirs and against the claim of The hier of Jacob Shaford to the Said Philip W. Johnson heirs & assign show

D. Elizabeth Smyre to Phillip Johnson

On October 12, 1848, in Catawba County, NC, administrators of the Estate of Jacob Shuford (deceased) executed the sale of his plantation to Phillip W. Johnson of Burke County, NC, husband of Susan Shuford. Despite an absence of a bill of sale documenting Milly's transfer from Elizabeth Smyre, Jacob Shuford's daughter, to Johnson, it is reasonable to infer that such a transfer was permitted to Johnson.



E. Phillip Johnson

The 1850 US Slave Schedule for Catawba County lists Phillip Johnson as the enslaver of six individuals, among whom are documented a 34-year-old Black female and a 2-year-old Mulatto male. These individuals are presumably Milly (born 1813) and her son Henry (born 1848).

4. Henry Johnston

NAME OF Name of Male. Name of Female. Mother of Male Father of Male. Me Orbonic Tely Orberne Hall Houlehorn Sinda Wilson Heiny Porter Anna Mathews . Ned Polls Maly Courton Vin Blut Carolin Danten Peter Vanitron Van Sadle Horny Voluntin Bena Alexander Milly Smarow Vohe Smorrow. Googs Macly Parthema Medlin Relieve Horlens Value Brown James Patterson Vim Fraderick Faring Patteron Sharper lowner Jenny Commer Thomas Conner Cherrefo Thomas Irane heyjam In Ingram Hoursel Vorance Fany Lugian Vec Adrinson Marshal bounning ham Hosty Moullough Horofine Matheres Hearry Downs Vuenda Mathews Vach Morrow Vezza Cocons Voc Green leaving Welf Willis Black Miley Gin Catherine Price Chariel Danie Che Daniel Sarah Games Simon Deely Fanny Daly What Darley Margaret Horron Undy Rechfectuck Voc Leech Varies Alles Nyden Jeach Netron Withers Vaura Alexander Culet Williams Nelly Withen Nancy Wallace Ben Daniels Market Morrow Lewester Daniels

Henry Johnston 1867 Mecklenburg County, NC Marriage Record

Lists his parents as **John** and **Milly** Smorrow [Smyre]

Alexa Mercanda

Jan Homes Namy Houses

Why I sought Membership in to SAR



"The Stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone"

Mark 12:10

Connecting with extended Smyre-descended family

Finding common language with my Smyre cousins to discuss family history and slavery

Challenging them to accept the history of slavery in the family

Challenging myself to explore my German ancestry

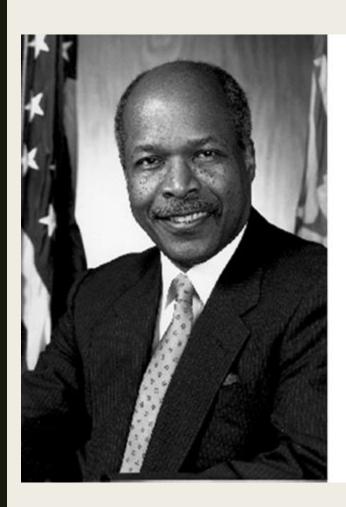
Considering whether I should apply to the Sons of the American Revolution





All of this, all of us, is America 250

Introducing a New Venture





June 19, 2025:
Black Ancestries
Uncovers Dr. Louis W.
Sullivan's Roots



Look for my forthcoming book

Finding
Cornerstone
Stories:
Drawing Inspiration
from Your Family's
History



Join the Hearts Reunion Genealogy Initiative

Help us to connect families and reveal the whole history of Cedar Grove, Mecklenburg, Lincoln, & Catwaba Counties



Thank You

andre@blackancestries.com www.medium.com/@andrekearns blackancestries.com