

SAR Patriot Ancestors' Biographies

Plunket Holt Jr. (P ____)

1750-1792

Patriotic Service in the American War for Independence

My Granddaddy, Plunket Holt, is said to have been born around 1730. The record is not particularly clear on where he was born but our best guess would be somewhere on a line between Old Rappahannock and Prince Edward Counties or perhaps in Caroline County. The record shows his father, Plunket Harraway Holt Sr. (1689-1760) to have been born Old Rappahannock County and later passing in Prince Edward County in 1760.

Plunket Jr. and his wife, the former Harriet Anne Dunbar, were married around the Christmas of 1757 in Northampton County, VA. Northampton County is located adjacent to Accomack County over on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. Records show that as Plunket and Harriet's marriage grew in years, they were kept busy raising at least seven offspring – six boys: James (1758-1834), Robert (1760-1834), Leonard (1764-1835), Josiah (1765-1840), George (1765-1844), Asa (1768-1830) and one young lady – Sarah Holt (1765-unk).

The Plunket Holt Family Line intersects my Wilkerson Family Line with the fourth generation marriage of my First Great Grandparents – Thomas Andrew Wilkerson (1853-1911) and Mary Elizabeth Holt (1850-1829). The marriage of Thomas Andrew and Mary Elizabeth on 01 October 1872, produced my granddad, Turner Lee Wilkerson Sr. on 25 September 1886 in Concord, Appomattox County, Virginia.

It is generally believed that, during the years preceding the Revolution, Plunket was a tobacco farmer hence the reason for a continuous migration to new lands as recorded in county land records. Tobacco crops, after a few short seasons, had a tendency to ruin the soil so, they frequently moved – initially from Nottaway County westward through Amelia and Prince Edward counties then, onward into Campbell County, VA. Without today's modern fertilizers the only means of continued production was by acquiring new land.

When the Revolutionary War began in 1776, Plunket would have been around 46 years old. By the time the war had migrated to the southern states in 1780 – 1782 Plunket was quickly moving past fifty years of age. But he and a number of his neighbors in the surrounding counties were still able to provide sustenance for the Continental Army and Militia as Lord Cornwallis and his British Army marched past their homes in the summer of 1781 whilst on their way to Yorktowne. The records of the county clearly document the logistic support patriotically provided by Plunket and his neighbors.

One of Plunket's sons, James Holt, and perhaps a couple of James' brothers were of age to have served in the Virginia Militia or the Continental Line during the Revolution. Hopefully, this will likely be the topic of another biography in the near future.

Respectfully Submitted,



Turner Lee Wilkerson III
(SAR # 187468)