

PREFACE

My interest in my family history began when I was about twelve years old. I remember my father had brought home a small ledger book that he told us contained a handwritten account of the life and times of my great-grandfather, Isaac W. Underwood. It was fascinating to read those words written so many years before by a man I had never met. He told of *his* great-grandfather who had, "come down from Philadelphia, Pa., following the game that was then plentiful in that wilderness area". He told of being born near the same place where his great-grandfather had settled along the banks of a branch of Runnetbag Creek at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Franklin County, Va. The disappointing thing about the little book was that Isaac did not give the first names of the ancestors that he wrote about; not even his own father. It was years later that I finally found his father's name listed in the census records for Patrick County, Virginia. (So you won't accuse me of the same oversight, his father's name was Samuel and his mother's name was Rebecca.)

Perhaps the worst thing that can happen to one who is doing genealogical research is to fall victim to wishful thinking.

We have such a strong desire to find that missing ancestor that we accept, without sufficient proof, the wrong person. It really bothers me a lot, because I have a situation in this work where I do not have absolute proof of the connection I have claimed. I am referring to Samuel Underwood (no. 006) as being the son of Samuel and Anne Underwood of Orange County, N. C. Let me present my case, and you be the jury:

Isaac Underwood states in his journal that his great-grandfather came down from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and settled along a branch of Runnetbag Creek in Franklin County, Virginia. He said that he raised a large family and that he was married twice.

Samuel (006) was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania (just southeast of Philadelphia), and as a young man of about seventeen, came down to North Carolina with his parents. There he married, had fifteen children and at least one grandchild, and about the year 1783, he moved to Franklin County, Virginia, and settled down on the banks of Roaring Run Branch of Runnetbag Creek. His children and grandchildren also moved to the same area, but a few years later (1791-92). The US