

Plunk/Plonk Family Timeline, A Working Document

This is a working document of collected notes as of the date in the header. It will be updated frequently. Some information could later be proven irrelevant or incorrect. So, do not reference this document!

Timeline

Often a historian has a collection of events, each only partially described. Inserting these events into a timeline can suggest a hypothesis against which further evidence can be tested for consistency. By this method, the historian gains precision in understanding.

This document is compilation of Plunk/Plonk Family historical evidence gathered by William Lee Anderson III (Bill Anderson) from others, in particular: Ann Moore Dellinger, Robert Carpenter, Pat Cloninger, Lonnie Plunk, William McGuire Plonk Sr, Carroll Johnson, and Sheila Valpredo. Hopefully, the timeline will suggest possible Plunk/Plonk Family scenarios: who lived where and when. If so, over time, this document will become more precise.

The types of insights that a timeline can reveal are:

- If the Plunk Family moved to the South Fork of the Catawba River before 1769, then any existing record will likely be among Mecklenburg County records.
- The Plunk and Carpenter Families appear to be associated during the 1700s.
- The Plunk Family attended Lutheran Churches in North Carolina.
- Jacob Plunk II lived near several major Revolutionary War events. It's possible that the British Army marched by his home on 24 January 1781.
- Jacob Plunk II probably married in late 1781 just when Revolutionary War fighting ceased.
- Joseph Plunk birth year was probably 1790, not 1788 as appears on his gravestone. He probably died before his 100th birthday.

A timeline can sometimes help set the record straight by correcting published errors.

1618–1648

Thirty Years War segregated the people of Europe into Roman Catholic and Protestant nations. Millions were displaced and dispossessed. Its impact persisted for generations, resulting in many poor German-speaking peasants eager to emigrate to America.

Mid 1600s

Peter Zimmerman, 1708-abt1796, was father of Peter Carpenter, 1740-1817, who died in "Lincoln, NC". Peter Zimmerman's grandmother was Madi Blank (Blanck). See [web page](#) and click on Notes. This is one connection between a Blank (Blanck) and the Carpenter Family. It may not be significant since it is not known how they relate to the settlers in North Carolina.

I think the Zimmermans and Blancks were related in Switzerland. I have traced a Hans Zimmerman and wife Madle Blanck in Steffisburg. Most of their children became Mennonite/Amish, moved to Alsace, and then to America. A familial relationship in Europe would help explain why they remained close in PA and in NC. The Zimmermans, Blancks, Kauffmans, Yoders, Zooks all came from Steffisburg. I have found Blancks in Alsace. They do not appear in the parish records of Alsace which suggests that they were also Mennonite. The Zimmermans, Blancks, Yoders, Eakers, Mauneys, and Whisnants were in Alsace. So many of these families traveled in the same areas and we must assume that they either knew each other. (Carpenter 2006–2011)

I believe that Dr. Peter and Jacob Plunk (father of Jacob and Peter) were not born and baptized in Steffisburg. I have not found baptisms that match them. That would probably mean that they were baptized in Alsace. I have read hours and hours of parish records in Alsace and literally found no Blancks. (Carpenter, email correspondence 2006–2014)

The Blanck family originated in Steffisburg, a town in the Kanton of Berne, in Switzerland near the town of Thun and the Thunersee (Thun lake). While researching my Zimmermans I located the family there with Yoders (Joders), Martins (Marti), Lehman (Lemon), and others. The Zimmermans and I suppose the Blancks converted to Anabaptist religion by the late 1680's and early 1700's. They migrated to Alsace to escape governmental persecution. The Blancks, Zimmermans, Ruchtis, Lehmans, and others also moved to Alsace from Steffisburg. The Zimmermans came under the influence of Jakob Ammann, the founder of the Amish sect. A Peter Zimmerman became an Amish preacher and was imprisoned in Thun for a period of time. I employed a Swiss researcher to fill in some of the holes. YET! I have not been able to determine lineage of my Zimmermans and the Blancks. The Blanck family sort of comes to an end in the parish records of Steffisburg and I have been unable to locate sufficient parish records for either the Zimmermanns or the Blancks in Alsace to bridge the gap of records. I also have failed to uncover the Blanck immigrants. Rev War Jacob stated in his pension statement that he was born in Lancaster Co, PA, home of the Zimmermans. There was a Dr. John Blanck in Berks Co, PA, who I suspect is related. (Carpenter, email correspondence 2006–2014)

1688–1714

During the *War of the League of Augsburg*, 1688–1697, called *King William's War* in America, the army of French King Louis XIV devastated the Rhineland and Palatinate region of Germany. Thousands of German farms were destroyed and farmers forced off their land. Afterwards, Louis attempted to unite the monarchies of Spain with France, and thus create a powerful state that would dominate Europe. Other nations allied against this threat and started the *War of Spanish Succession*, 1701–1714, called *Queen Anne's War* in America. As before, German farmers suffered during this unsettled time. No doubt, many Germans sought a better life in America.

Before 1730

Robert Carpenter discovered that earlier Plunks/Plonks and Carpenters belonged to Anabaptist congregations in Steffisburg, Switzerland; Alsace; and Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. (Carpenter 2006–2014)

1733

Christian Blank arrived in Philadelphia on the ship *Hope* on 28 August 1733. See link off [web page](#). This list is from the Strassburger-Hinke publication. His relation to Plunks who moved to North Carolina is unknown.

1735

One last item that is good to know ... land grant process...from the book Colony of North Carolina 1735-1764, Abstracts of Land Patents Vols. I & II by Mrs. Margaret M. Hofmann, she states:

*In colonial North Carolina it was possible to obtain a grant of vacant land for importing people into the colony (called the headright grant) or to purchase vacant land from the government (a purchase grant). There were **four basic steps** in obtaining the document conveying title to the vacant land (which is what the patent is). The first step was to notify the secretary of the colony that one wished to have a particular piece of vacant land; at a meeting of the governor and council held to consider land matters (called the Court of Claims) the secretary read out the names of all who had petitioned for an entry on the land. (Researchers need not look for these "petitions" to the secretary since they no longer exist.) If the Court of Claims agreed to the entry, the person could then petition through the same process for a warrant. This document authorized the Crown surveyor to survey the land. When he had done so, a little map of the survey, called the*

*plat, was returned by the surveyor in two copies to the secretary who then informed the Court of Claims that the individual petitioned for a patent. If the court agreed, and if all fees had been paid, the patent was then issued out of the secretary's office where it was recorded before the original patent was surrendered to the new landowner. **The patent was also recorded in the office of the Crown auditor so that that officer would know who was to pay the annual tax on the land (called the quit rent).** Even though the land itself was freely granted under the headright system, the paperwork was expensive. It is unlikely that the small farmer earned as much as £100 yearly in cash. The cost of the patent alone (not counting the other three steps) cost nearly £12 if the tract of land was one square mile (640 acres) or less. The governor received 10 shillings for signing the patent; the governor's secretary got 5 shillings for putting a wax seal to the document; the colonial secretary's underclerks got 1 shilling, fivepence for registering the patent; the clerk of the Court of Claims got a shilling for his trouble and another 7 shillings, sixpence for the petitioning process; the auditor was entitled £3 for entering the patent in his records; the attorney general received £2 for examining the patent to be certain that the wording was correct and that the title was clearly and accurately conveyed; and the colonial secretary charged £5 for having written out the original patent and 10 shillings for his trouble. **The whole granting process probably cost the average small farmer several months earnings, but in North Carolina where it was not possible to obtain title to land simply by squatting on it. The fees had to be paid in order to obtain clear title to vacant land.** And it was a clear title in fee simple, despite statements to the contrary by Secretary of State Saunders in his notes to the published Colonial Records of North Carolina and by historians who have been misled by him. The new owner could and did sell the land subsequently or devise the land to his heirs absolutely at his pleasure and without consultation with government officials.*

1740

Since 1665, only Englishmen were allowed to own land in British American colonies. The *Colonial Naturalization Act of 1740* was enacted by King George II to enable those foreigners who were already in the colonies to take an oath of allegiance to the British government and thereby be granted land in areas which the British government desired to develop, i.e. N.C. This right was granted to foreign Protestants and others residing seven years in America who should take the oath of abjuration, made the declaration of fidelity, and receive the sacraments. A foreign born Protestant simply had to go before Chief Judge or another judge in the colony and take the prescribed oaths and proved through the testimony of two witnesses and a certificate from his minister that he had received the sacrament within the last three months. (Plunk 2008–2014)

1744

Approximate birth year of Dr. Peter Plunk, abt1744–1791. (Plunk 2008–2014)

1747–1748

Birth of Jacob Plunk II in Lancaster County, PA. (Plunk, Jacob, pension application 1832)

1749

Hans Jacob Blonk arrived in Philadelphia on the ship *Crown* in August 1749. His relation to Plunks who moved to North Carolina is unknown.

1756

Seven-Years War, called the *French and Indian War* in America, begins. Severe conflicts resulted with Indians from New York to North Carolina.

1760–1761

George III becomes King of England. He marries Princess Charlotte Sophia, from Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Germany.

11 December 1762

Mecklenburg Country formed from Anson County. It included present-day Lincoln County.

1762

Peter Zimmerman apparently moved to North Carolina around 1758–1762. Peter received his first land in 1762 when Jacob Zimmerman sold him 230 acres on Indian Creek. This land was north of [what later became] Jacob Plunk's home and home place tract. (Carpenter 2006–2014)

1763

Seven-Years War, called the French and Indian War in America, ends. In an attempt to resolve the Indian land problem, George III announced the *Proclamation of 1763*. It prohibited further settlement west of the Alleghenies. Those living in Pennsylvania who wanted more land planned to move to Virginia and the Carolinas.

1763–1776

Patricia Nesbit studies the history of German settlers in the Carolina backcountry. She discovered that they were Protestants who first immigrated to Pennsylvania during 1709–1775. They relocated to the Carolinas using wagons. Like most Americans, they were farmers. Unlike other Americans, they built log cabins using finished square logs. Men wore wide-brimmed hats. Their distinctive foods were dumplings, pork including pigtailed, cabbage, gingerbread, fruit cobbler, cider, and clabbered milk. Singing was a favorite pastime. A marriage was at the bride's home on either Tuesday or Thursday. Usually, a father divided his land equally among all his sons. German folktales included Little Red Riding Hood. Superstitions included carrying a rabbit's foot and knock on wood. They introduced the custom of firing black-powder muskets at midnight New Year's morning. That custom is still celebrated in nearby Cherryville, NC. (Nesbit 2007)

It is great pity that more is not known about the family life, economic arrangements, farming practices, and customs of these early German-speaking settlers. One good source is (Bernheim 1872). By the mid 1830s these distinct practices were assimilated in common American customs.

24 October 1765

Dr. Peter Plunk's first land purchase was recorded in Mecklenburg Co. Land Warrants:

24 Oct. 1765 Dr. Peter Plunk received warrant for 300A on Long Creek adj. Adam Meeks;

1766

NC Crown Patents B 18:326 - Sept 1766 - 300 A on both sides of Long Creek. (Plunk 2008–2014)

The earliest record I have on Doctor Peter Plunk (d. 1791) is a land grant to him in 1766 on both sides of Long Creek, joining Francis Beatey, Meak's line and Welches' line. He still owned part of this grant at the time of his death. His executors Jacob Fulbright and Peter Carpenter sold 174 acres of this land on Long Creek in Oct. 1803. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

The name of Peter Plunk is on the undated Moses Moore Militia List. If you look at the names of the other men on this list, although it bears no date, it will fall between 1764 and 1768 - consistent with the 1766 land grant for Peter Plunk on Long Creek. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

About 1766

Jacob Plunk I and his two sons Jacob Plunk II and Peter Plunk move to North Carolina. They settled with other German-speaking settlers along South Fork of Catawba River. Jacob Plunk II, age 17, met Christian Arney, age 16 (Arney, Christian, pension application 1832-1833).

There is circumstantial evidence that Jacob II may have been in Tryon County as early as 1766. On 14 Nov 1833 when he was 84 years old, he testified that he had known Christian Arney 67 years, or since he was 17 years old in 1766. Jacob said he was born in Lancaster County, PA. See [web page](#). Christian Arney said he was born in York town, York County, PA. See [web page](#). The Arney Family records that Christian's father Jacob Arney moved his family to NC in 1767. See [web page](#). Those are adjacent counties, separated by the Susquehanna River. So, it is possible these two boys met each other in PA. But it seems more likely they met as neighbors in Mecklenburg County or when both were required to join the same militia at age 16. Jacob II's brother Peter was only 10 years old in 1766. These young sons would not have moved to NC without adults. There is also reference to "Jacob the Younger" in 1784. There is also the Jacob Plunk, one-male one-female in the [1790 US Census](#) who we cannot identify. Also, Sarah Plunk (Weaver) reportedly said her grandfather was granted land by King George III and was a loyalist during the Rev War. So, all this suggests that Jacob Plunk I moved to NC with his sons Jacob II and Peter. But, as yet, this is not proven.

A grant or land transfer to Jacob Plunk I might still be on record in a British archive among the North Carolina Provincial papers, Mecklenburg County before 10 April 1769 or Tryon County. Any official government document would likely have the King's name on it. George III became king in 1760.

The father of our Jacob and Peter appeared to never own land in NC and I have found no record in PA. So locating him has been difficult and will remain so. Maybe he is hiding somewhere in PA and we have just not found him yet. I also think it is very plausible that the brothers Jacob and Peter and their father may have been tenants of the Zimmerman family in NC. They may have also done that in PA. Again proving that will be difficult. (Carpenter 2006-2014)

26 April 1768

Dr. Peter Plunk's land purchase was recorded in Mecklenburg Co. Land Warrants:

26 April 1768 - 300 A on both sides of Long Creek adj. Thomas Welsh

10 April 1769

On 10 April 1769, Tryon County was formed from Mecklenburg County, separated by the Catawba River.

9 April 1770

For Dr. Peter Plunk. (Plunk 2008-2014)

B20:562 - April 9, 1770 200A on branches of Long Creek.

1771

One tradition is that Jacob Plunk II participated in the 1771 Regulator Rebellion, but there is no known documentation.

28 February 1775

John Hill 28 Feb 1775 200 acres in Tryon on both side of Espess Mill fork of long Creek, joining Peter Plunk, Ormonds corner, and Espess corner. (M. M. Hoffman 1984)

Espess is probably a spelling variation of Espey. The “Espess Mill fork of long Creek” could be the stream that passes what is now known as Ormond Furnace. If so, that locates Dr. Peter Plunk’s property with some precision.

1775–1783

I have seen a document where Dr. Peter Plunk performed medical services for the Patriots during the Revolution. I think it is in the Vouchers at the State Archives in Raleigh. (Carpenter, email correspondence 2006–2014)

14 August 1775

[Tryon County Resolves](#) signed at courthouse by, among others: Christian Carpenter, Samuel Carpenter, Thomas Espey, William Graham, Jacob Forney, John Dellinger, George Dellinger, Moses Moore, Valentine Mauney, George Black, and Jacob Costner.

August–October 1776

[Jacob Plunk II joins Rutherford's Cherokee campaign.](#)

16 December 1776

On 16 December 1776, the Fifth Provincial Congress adopted the first North Carolina Constitution. This ended the Provincial Congress and emergency Provincial Council along with all county committees of safety. The new constitution created a bicameral legislature, the office of Governor, Council of State, and judiciary. The lower house was called House of Commons, a name that mistakenly suggests pre-Revolution to modern readers. The constitution included a bill-of-rights. Every free man, who was a resident for at least one year and paid taxes, was entitled to vote.

25 July 1778

I do have a question about a land entry “Jacob Plank claims 300 ac in Tryon Co on Big Br waters of Big Long Cr; border: Peter Plank, James White, Thomas Espey, & Adam Curruth; includes his own improvement; entered Jul. 25, 1778; £8.14.” It appears this entry was granted 24 Sept. 1785 and 150 acres of it sold in Oct. 1793. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

16 January 1779

Jacob Costner, 1743–1779, and his wife Elizabeth Brooks, 1733–1779, both drown in South Fork River. They left three children, ages 9–14. They were great-grandparents of Mary Elviria Plonk, 1834–1925.

April 1779

In April 1779, Major General Benjamin Lincoln and Colonel Griffith Rutherford were heroes among the Whigs. Both were containing British forces within Savannah, Georgia. In North Carolina, the local Tryon County Whig government separated and renamed their county Lincoln and Rutherford Counties.

3 May 1779

Beginning on 3 May, Lincoln County citizens signed a petition to the General Assembly for appointment of their militia field officers. The recommended leader was Colonel William Graham who on 12 May, received a new commission. Peter Plunk and Adam Kiser, both 4th great-granduncles, signed this petition (Broad River Genealogy Society, *Eswau Huppeday*, 1998, XVIII:2:175–178).

June-August 1780

[Jacob Plunk II](#) and [Christian Arney](#) made shoes for Patriot soldiers

10 June 1780

Meeting of loyalists called by Colonel John Moore at this father Moses Moore's home on Indian Creek, 7 miles from Ramsour's Mill. This location was probably near present-day Shoal Road bridge over Indian Creek.

20 June 1780

On 20 June 1780, Battle of Ramsour's Mill occurred 4 miles from Plonk home place.

7 October 1780

One tradition places Jacob Plunk II at the battle of Kings Mountain. This is almost certainly incorrect, since he did not make this claim in his [pension application](#).

1 December 1780

Jacob Plunk II is alleged to have trespassed on Thomas Espey's land and taken property worth 10 shillings.

24 January 1781

Cornwallis's army of about 2000 regular British soldiers marched from Old Tryon County Courthouse to Ramsour's Mill. They may have passed along road leading past Plonk home place. Nixon's history suggests that Lt. Col. Tarleton's British Legion of mounted soldiers separated from the main army at this location. That unit crossed the South Fork River between the present-day Laboratory and railroad tracks. That route would likely be close to present-day Highway 150. (Nixon 1910)

October-November 1781

The NC legislature did make a law in this time period which allowed for former Tories to keep their property from being confiscated by serving in the Patriot army. General Griffith Rutherford's Wilmington Expedition had, in my opinion, many former Tories turned Patriots. It is possible that Jacob Plunk II had been influenced by his neighbors toward the Espeys and then saw the "light" and served in the Wilmington Expedition. (Carpenter 2006–2014)

[Jacob Plunk II joined Brigadier General Rutherford's campaign to drive British forces from Wilmington, NC.](#)

About this time, Jacob Plunk II married Christina Jane Kiser, 1755–1823.

1782–1784

By two laws, in 1782 and 1784, the southern portion of Burke County that is present-day Catawba County was added to Lincoln County. The old Granville Line became irrelevant. As a consequence, Lyles Creek mentioned below was within Lincoln County. Much later in 1842 and 1846 when Catawba and Gaston Counties were formed, the new boundary approximated the old Granville Line by 4 miles.

1782

Jacob Plunk II's daughter Elizabeth Plonk birth 2 July.

1784

Jacob Plunk II's daughter Catherine Plunk birth.

April 1784

Lincoln County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, April Court 1784

Jacob Plunk the Younger accused of trespassing and taking property worth 10 shillings specie from Thomas Espie on December 1, 1780.

I believe this reference is to Jacob Plunk II who married Christina Jane Kiser. I believe that Jacob Plunk, son of Dr. Peter Plunk who died in 1792, would have been too young for this reference in 1784 court minutes. In addition, Thomas Espie/Espey was a Revolutionary soldier. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

The “Jacob Plunk the Younger” who trespassed and took 10 shillings worth of property on 1 December 1780 must be Jacob Plunk II, 1748–bef1845. A conversion chart says 10 shillings in 1760 is the equivalent of \$10 today. In 1780, Jacob II was 32 years old. His son Jacob III was not born until 1786. His nephew Jacob Plunk, son of Peter Plunk, abt1756–1824, was not born until about 1792. You rule out the other Jacob Plunk in the area who was son of “Dr. Peter Plunk” on Lyles Creek. So, by elimination, the accused trespasser must be Jacob Plunk II. The date 1 December 1780 was during the height of Revolutionary War tensions in the area. So, could the incident somehow be related to the war? There is comic irony in this event. In 1848, Jacob Plunk II's grandson John Jonas Plunk, 1823–1908, married Thomas Espey's great-granddaughter Anne Ellen Oates, 1831–1905. Could they have known about this dispute between their elders? Thomas Espey was a signer of the 1775 [Tryon County Resolves](#). He was the father, of [Captain Samuel Espey](#), [wounded in the Battle of Kings Mountain](#), [James Espey](#), and [John Espey](#). Each applied for a Rev War pension. Most of these Plunks, Espeys, Oates, etc. are buried at [Long Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery](#) in Gaston County.

7 April 1784

On 7 April 1784, “Jacob Plunk Jr.” claimed 150 acres on the south side of Indian Creek next to Peter Carpenter. The land included his own improvement, which meant that he had already established residence and farming on the land prior to receiving legal ownership. On 17 July 1784, this land was granted to Jacob Plunk Jr. (Pruitt 1987)

1785

It appears Doctor Peter Plunk arrives in the Lyles Creek area about 1785 when Frederick Shull, Sr. sells him 450 acres of land. In 1786 Peter Plunk is granted 100 acres of additional land on the north side of Lyles Creek. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

1785

Jacob Plunk I died after this year.

Jacob Plunk II known as “Doctor.” Apparently, he could not read nor write his own name. It is not known, what treatments he recommended.

28 December 1785

Peter Plunk bought 43 acres from Frederick Shull and wife 28 December 1785, Lincoln County. (Eaker 1994)

1786

Jacob Plunk II's children Sarah Plunk and Jacob Plunk III birth. They may have been twins. Our records show her birthday 27 January 1786 and his 2 March 1786. One of these dates cannot be correct.

25 May 1786

From Jo White Linn's transcription of *Johann Gottfried Arends Diary*, page 31. A Beaverdam Church record reads:

	25 May 1786 Bieveerdem
Jacob Kastner	Margaretha Hofmann
“ Blanck	Barbara Reinen
Peter Heyl	Elisabetha Kastner
John Howy	Barbara Kastner
	Marlena Heylen

(Arends 1786 in Arends 1999, 31)

Pat Caswell Cloninger indicates that Kastner became Costner, Blanck became Plonk, Heyl became Hoyle, Howy became Howe, and Reinen became Rhyne. He also indicates that the Beaverdam Congregation was first located on Indian Creek just west of the South Fork River and Long Shoals. When it moved the name was changed to St. Mark's Lutheran Church. (Cloninger 2006)

July 1786

[Lawrence O. Kiser](#), father of Christina Jane Kiser, 1755–1823, and Elizabeth Kiser, 1765–aft1824, died.

1786

Peter Plunk, abt1756–1824, married Elizabeth Kiser, 1765–aft1824, about this time. By tradition, Peter Plunk was a blacksmith.

10 August 1787

On 10 August 1787, Jacob Plunk II received a state grant for 150 acres for the land upon which the Plunk Cemetery is located. (Carpenter, email correspondence 2006–2014). Although this “land grant” may have been for Revolutionary War service, some North Carolina land grants were actual sales of land.

29 December 1787

Peter Plunk bought 450 acres from Frederick Shull and wife 29 December 1787, Lincoln County. (Eaker 1994)

1788

Jacob Plunk II's daughter Susanne Plonk birth.

9 July 1788

Peter Plunk bought 232 acres from Peter Coons 9 July 1788, Lincoln County. (Eaker 1994). Both Peter Plunk and his brother Jacob Plunk II acquired additional land with later grants. (Carpenter, email correspondence 2006–2014).

16 January 1789

Major Joseph Graham drew a road map in this region. About 1900, the original map was [redrawn](#) by D. A. Tomkin Company. The map shows a road between Ramsour's Mill and Old Tryon Courthouse that crosses Indian Creek at Given's Mill. That location is not precisely known, but may be discoverable. The [1790 US Census](#) shows a Samuel Givens household with 8 males, 8 females, and 7 slaves.

16 June 1790

Dr. Peter Plunk purchased his land on Lyles Creek on 16 June 1790. The 1790 census indicates that he had moved his family to this location. He sold his Long Creek home in 1797 to David Costner. (Carpenter, email correspondence 2006–2014).

2 August 1790

[US Census](#) day of enumeration. One household headed by Jacob Plunk with one male and one female. This was probably Jacob Plunk I, father of Jacob Plunk II and Peter Plunk. This page is associated with the Indian Creek area because Peter Carpenter's home is known to be 400 feet south of Indian Creek near the present-day Lincoln-Gaston county line and west of Long Shoals. (Carpenter, email correspondence 2006–2014). The second household was headed by Jacob Plunk II and was probably located on the land acquired on 10 August 1787. It showed one male, one female, and 5 children. That suggests that the sixth child Joseph's birth occurred after 2 August 1790. The Peter Plunk household is listed immediately afterwards with one male and 2 children.

Dr. Peter Plunk was also listed on the 1790 Lincoln Co., NC Census in the Fifth Company with 2 males over 16 (Peter and his son, John), 1 male under 16 (Jacob - which establishes his birth after the year 1774), and 6 females (Barbara and their youngest daughters). The older daughters were married by this time. (Plunk 2008–2014)

1790

Peter Plunk's daughter Catherina Plunk birth.

1791

Death of Dr. Peter Plunk, abt1744–1791. In looking at the items listed on the inventory of Doctor Peter Plunk's estate he owned a Bible, a hymn book, more than one Psalter, more than one prayer book, and more than one Catechism books. The estate inventory definitely refers to him as "Doctor Plunk." By 1791 it appears from the estate file that Dr. Plunk has daughters married to Abraham Sipes and Abraham Lorange. The daughter Sarah is judged "insane" by Lincoln Co. Court in Oct. 1812 and Abraham Lorange appointed her guardian in 1813. At the estate sale "women's clothes" are sold to seven individuals - Abraham Sipe, Jacob Fulbright, William Fulbright, Abraham Lorange, Mary Plunk, Catherine Plunk, and Sarah Plunk. In 1791 it appears to me we may be looking at husbands of four of Dr. Plunk's seven daughters with 3 yet unmarried. There is a marriage bond in 1812 for the daughter Catherine to Nicholas Carpenter. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

1792

Peter Plunk's, abt1756–1824, son Jacob Plunk birth. The son's full name may have been John Jacob Plunk.

October 1793

I have looked at the 1793 land sale by Jacob Plunk on Long Creek to John Sloan. [See above event for 25 July 1778.] I cannot figure out from the records I have whether that is Jacob Sr. or Jr. Maybe somewhere we can find something about it. Whether it is Jacob I or II this deed is significant. It places a member of the Jacob and Peter Plunk family living on Long Creek very near the first homeplace of Dr. Peter Plunk. I believe they are all related and this piece of evidence suggests a connection because of land ownership. I am not sure we will ever be able to determine which Jacob that is with that land entry and land grant on Long Creek. Both Jacob I and II would be old enough to get it. The length of time between the land entry and the land grant suggests that whoever was getting the land was short on cash and had to wait a long time to get enough money to pay for the land. By the way John Sloan, the purchaser of the Long Creek land, was buying land around his iron furnace, now known as the Ormand Furnace.

He operated this iron furnace as early as 1786 and possibly earlier. He speculated heavily in lands in this area so that he could provide enough timber to make the charcoal to fire the furnace. John Fulenwider, the ironmaster at High Shoals, later acquired Sloan's Washington Furnace and he was taxed for the Jacob Plonk Long Creek land in the 1820's. (Carpenter 2006–2014)

4 August 1800

US Census day of enumeration. As yet, not examined.

20 April 1808

The Plonk family was definitely Lutheran. Among the few existing records for Emanuel Lutheran Church, Lincolnton, NC are those being confirmed April 20, 1808 "Jacob Blanck, Joseph Blanck, Catharine Blanck, Sarah Blanck, Susanna Blanck." Their father Jacob Plonk and his brother Peter Plonk were consistently listed as communing at Emanuels. Sarah Plonk (married John Weaver) appears as a member of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Lincoln Co., in the 1860s. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

Robert Carpenter discovered that earlier Plunks/Plonks and Carpenters belonged to Anabaptist congregations in Switzerland, Alsace, and Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Could it be that there were not enough Mennonites among the German-speaking settlers in the South Fork River area to form a congregation? And thus, the Plonks and Carpenters joined the Lutheran Church. Those listed as confirmed on 20 April 1808 were 18-years-old or older. An 1891 newspaper article announcing Sarah Plunk's death said she was baptized in infancy. That was not the Anabaptist tradition of baptizing young adults. (Carpenter 2006–2014)

6 August 1810

US Census day of enumeration: Peter Plunk 00101-01010 (age 45+) [p 407](#) and Jacob Plunk 01101-01031 (near Carpenter, Reip, Mauney, Huffstottler, Costner) (age 45+) [p 411](#) (Valpredo 2007–2008)

4 December 1810

Catherine Plonk, 1784–1860, marries Heinrich Hauss, 1788–aft1858.

12 July 1811

Sarah Plonk, 1786–1891, marries John Weaver, 1784–1855.

12 November 1811

Susanne Plonk, abt1788–1889, marries George Tutherow, abt1785–bef1880.

14 September 1812

Catherina Plunk, abt1790–aft1850, daughter of Peter Plunk, marries Jacob Hafner, d:bef1850.

24 December 1812

Jacob Plonk III, 1786–1870, marries Catherine Costner, 1793–1852.

1814

Death of child Susan Hauss, 1813–1814. Oldest inscribed gravestone in cemetery, but probably not the oldest grave.

28 September 1816

Joseph Plunk, 1790–1888, marries Barbara Rudisill, 1795–1864.

April 1820

In April 1820 David Crouse had 290 acres of land on Indian Creek surveyed. In doing the survey there was a discussion for establishing Crouse's line which adjoined the lands of Jacob Plunk. Joseph Plunk and Jacob Plunk III, Junior were both present - Joseph Plunk was one of the chainbearers for the survey. In recording the survey Maxwell Wilson, the surveyor, wrote the following:

At the running and marking of the Plunk line a dispute took place. Jacob Plunk Junior and Joseph Plunk were present and said their father Jacob Plunk Senior had divided the land mentioned on the 100 acre grant between them and that they, the said Jacob and Joseph, had a right to compound and agree on establishing the line.

The original of this document is in the David Crouse file in the NC Archives. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

29 April 1820

Maintenance bond between Joseph Plunk and Jacob Plunk II:

Know all men by these presents that I, Joseph Plunk of the State of North Carolina and County of Lincoln am held and firmly bound unto Jacob Plunk Senr. of the State and County aforesaid in the sum of five hundred dollars which payment well and truly to be made and done, I bind myself my heirs Executors administrators and assigns, unto the said Jacob Plunk Senr his heirs and Executors administrators and assigns sealed with my seal and dated this 29th day of April AD 1820. The conditions of the above obligations is such that the said Jacob Plunk Senr doth by these presents reserve so much of a tract of land conveyed to the said Joseph Plunk by the said Jacob Plunk Senr of 282 acres whereon the said Jacob Plunk Senr now lives viz: Four fields, three on the left hand of the lane leading from the house whereon the barn now stands and one on the right hand of the lane including the Dwelling house and the said Jacob Plunk Senr reserves the above named fields during his natural life. And the said Jacob Plunk Senr and Jane his wife reserves during either of their natural lives the Dwelling house, kitchen, loom house, smoke house, shop, corn crib, still house and spring and the garden, and half of the hay of the old meadows that was conveyed to the said Joseph Plunk by the said Jacob Plunk Senr and the said Joseph Plunk shall furnish the said Jacob Plunk Senr and Jane his wife with a sufficient quantity of firewood during their natural lives. And the said Joseph Plunk shall give privileges unto the said Jacob Plunk Senr for a sufficient quantity of timber for the fencing of the above fields as reserved. Then the above obligation to be void otherwise to remain in full force and virtue. Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of Peter Mauney Joseph Plunk (seal) (Dellinger 2006–2014)

This April 1820 maintenance bond was between Jacob Plunk II and his son Joseph Plunk. In this context, Jacob II was called "Senior" because Jacob Plunk I had died as much as 35 years earlier. In 1820, Jacob Plunk II was over 70 years old. So, he and Joseph legalized an agreement where son Joseph got 282 acres in exchange for \$500 and maintaining his elderly parents. The dwelling house was almost certainly at the [site of Gary Chapman's house](#) today. That is just 0.3 miles up Old Lincolnton Crouse Road from the cemetery. It is along the [small stream](#) that flows down and past the cemetery, and is now the back property line of land recently purchased by Lincoln County Historical Association.

This evidence lists the actual buildings at Jacob Plunk II's home site. His property contained a residence or "dwelling house," a separate kitchen building for cooking, a loom house for spinning, weaving and other activities associated with making clothing for the family, a smoke house for curing meat, a shop possibly for blacksmithing, a corn crib for storing corn to feed animals, a "still" house for making whiskey, and a spring house to keep a covered water supply and store items like milk and butter. The site also had a separate barn for animals. I would be willing to bet all these buildings were of log construction. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

7 August 1820

[US Census](#) day of enumeration. (Valpredo 2007–2008)

- Jos. Plonk (W. of the So. Fork, Catawba, Lincoln Co. per Ancestry.com) 200010-10100 (age 26-45). Likely Joseph Plunk, 1790-1888, who married Barbara Rudisill, 1795–1864, in 1816.
- Peter Plonk (W. of the So. Fork, Catawba, Lincoln Co. per Ancestry.com) p. 294 000101-00001 (age 45+) (Peter, Elizabeth and Jacob)
Peter Plunk, abt1756-1824, brother of Jacob Plunk II, abt1748-bef1845, husband of Elizabeth Kiser, abt1765-aft1824, and father of Jacob Plunk, abt1792-1850.
- and next to Peter - Jacob Plonk (W. of the So. Fork, Catawba, Lincoln Co. per Ancestry.com) p. 294 000001-01001 (age 45+)
Jacob Plunk II, abt1748-bef1845, Rev War soldier. Brothers Peter and Jacob II are also listed consecutively in the 1790 census.
- Jacob Plonk (W. of the So. Fork, Catawba, Lincoln Co. per Ancestry.com) p. 304 100010-20010 (age 26-45)
Likely, Jacob Plonk III, 1786-1870, son of Jacob Plunk, abt1748-bef1845, who married Catherine Costner, 1793-1852
- Jacob Plonk (E. of the So., Fork, Catawba, Lincoln Co. per Ancestry.com) p 394 210201-11010 (age 45+)
This entry is displaced 90 or more pages from the above entries in the census list. It would be interesting to know where this household was located. Maybe this person is a relative of Dr. Peter Plunk. Lyles Creek is east (and north) of the South Fork River.

30 July 1823

From the journal of Lutheran pastor David Henkel:

July 30, 1823 preached a funeral for Mrs. Plonk.

I believe this entry is for Christina Jane (Kiser) Plonk, wife of Jacob Plonk II (Dellinger 2006–2014). She is probably buried in the [row of seven graves marked by pairs of fieldstones](#).

1823–1824

Jacob Plunk, abt1774–abt1824, son of Dr. Peter Plunk, d:1792, of Lyles Creek, moved his family to McNairy County, TN. He died there soon afterwards.

January 1824

Death of Peter Plunk, abt1756–1824. Will was dated 2 July 1822 and probated Jan 1824. Will named his wife Elisabeth and “my two children Catherina and Jacob.” Executors of the will were “my worthy friends Jacob Plonk, Senior and Jacob Plonk, Junior.” Witnesses: Joseph Plonk, John Smith. His wife Elizabeth Kiser, abt1765–aft1824, died later. Both are probably buried in the [row of seven graves marked by pairs of fieldstones](#). That year, Peter’s son Jacob Plunk, abt1790–aft1850, married Sarah Tutherow and they had seven daughters. So, in this family branch, the Plunk name discontinued.

17 December 1824

Jacob Plunk, abt1790–aft1850, son of Peter Plunk, marries Sarah Tutherow, abt1796–aft1850. She was the sister of George Tutherow, abt1785–bef1880, who married Jacob’s 1st cousin Susanne Plonk, abt1788–1889, on 12 November 1811.

29 June 1830

Elizabeth Plonk, 1782–1852, at age 47 marries Adam Cloninger, abt1782–bef1852.

1831

About 1831, 13-year-old Jacob Plonk, son of Joseph Plonk, drowns in Indian Creek. He may be buried in cemetery.

1 November 1832

Jacob Plonk II [applied for a pension](#) for his Revolutionary War service. He signed his application with a mark. Thus, he was illiterate.

1840

A newspaper article of 15 July 1930 indicated that 1840 was the last year Jacob Plonk II drew a pension payment.

The date of the death of JACOB PLONK is unknown because of lost records, but according to the information as furnished by Mr. Nixon, he must have died around 1840, as that was the last year he received a pension from the government.

5 September 1845

Ann Moore Dellinger provided the following:

I have records from the National Archives showing Jacob Plonk [II] of Lincoln County, NC, pensioner, appointing Elijah Fuller as his agent to receive his pension payment from the 4th of March 1845 to the 4th of Sept. 1845. This record is dated 5th day of September 1845 and is signed by Jacob Plonk [II] (signs with a "B" mark).

The statement was made before Jacob Plonk [III], Justice of the Peace, and witnessed by John Tutherow. Justice of the Peace Jacob Plonk [III] states Jacob Plonk Senior [II] personally appeared before him on the 5th day of Sept. 1845.

There is also a receipt signed by Elijah Fuller showing he received \$15 for six months pension due Jacob Plonk [II] from the 4th day of March 1845 to the 4th day of Sept. 1845. This receipt is dated 7 Oct. 1845. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

15 September 1845

Reported death of Jacob Plonk II. The source is said to be (Eaker 1976, 778), however this has not been verified by the author. He is probably buried in the [row of seven graves marked by pairs of fieldstones](#).

October 1850

The Lutheran Archives at Columbia, SC has a few records for the Ebenezer Lutheran Church, established in October 1850. Its location was at the site of present-day St. Paul's Lutheran cemetery, Pleasant Grove Church Rd., Crouse. The oldest record is dated April 26, 1868 and has the names of JOSEPH PLONK, JACOB PLONK (whom I identify as a cousin of Joseph Plonk), GEORGE TUTHEROW (brother-in-law of Joseph Plonk), and SALLY WEAVER (sister of Joseph Plonk). (Dellinger 2006–2014) This site offered an alternative burial site to the Plonk Family Cemetery.

1852

Jacob Plunk III, 1786–1870, helped finance the [first bridge over the Catawba River](#) at Horse Ford. That location is north of Hickory and a little east of present-day Hwy321 bridge. It was a covered bridge. Initially, it allowed farmers west of the Catawba to get their livestock to railheads on the east side. It was used from 1852 until swept away by the 1916 flood. (Freeze 1995, 149)

4 July 1862

Nancy Caroline Plunk's, 1837-1771, husband Absalom Farmer enlisted in the North Carolina 57th Regiment, Company G. The next year he died of wounds suffered at Gettysburg. In 1865, she remarried Lewis Elmore. She died in 1871 or 1872 in Mississippi.

1862–1863

During Civil War [Philip Plunk](#), 1826–1863, was a colonel in the Confederate Home Guard, a civil-defense organization. One of its duties was to catch deserters. You can read several orders sent to him by the North Carolina Adjutant General on webpages: [order1862-08-29](#), [order1862-11-26](#), [order 862-11-26](#), [order1862-12-05](#), and [order1863-02-09](#). Philip died on 20 March 1863.

5 October 1864

Death of Barbara Plunk, 1795–1864. [Her gravestone](#) is in Plunk Cemetery.

March 1865

Sylvanus Froneberger, 1846–1865, son of Catherine Plunk, 1817–1882, and William Froneberger, 1818–1885, was a soldier in the Confederate Army. At age 18, he was killed by lightning. In 1915, Laban Miles Hoffman wrote this eyewitness description:

Sylvanus Froneberger was a member of Co. D, 71st N.C. Regt., C. S. A. I was in Co. C, same Regiment. On our retreat from Bentonville, I think it was a short distance east of Chapel Hill, a storm came up and we hurriedly turned into the woods and put up our tents. Froneberger's tent was near ours and in common with many others blew down. He took refuge under a large leaning oak tree about twenty feet in front of our tent in plain view. He had just taken his position when the lightning struck the tree and he fell dead. His heavy woolen sock was split wide open but the shoe left apparently uninjured. I was crouched down in the tent with my weight resting on my right leg which for a short time was paralyzed. (L. M. Hoffman 1915, 305)

6 August 1870

Death of Jacob Plunk III, 1786–1870. He is buried in the [old Costner cemetery](#), Gaston County with a tombstone giving his date of birth as March 2, 1786, died August 16, 1870. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

About 1875

Philip Sylvanus Baker, 1848–1907, son of Allen Michael Baker, 1819–1911, and Jane Elizabeth Plunk, 1828–1891, moved to Kings Mountain, NC, and became Secretary-Treasurer of Lula Cotton Mill. He later founded the Crowders Mountain Cotton Mill in Gastonia, NC. (Rudisill 2006–2010)

1877

Rev. Michael Luther Carpenter was ordained in 1875 and was minister of Ebenezer Lutheran Church until 1891. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

1880

In 1880, Robert Marcus Oates, a Plonk-related 1st cousin, organized the Charlotte Cotton Mill, the first cotton mill in Charlotte. Its two buildings are still standing. He hired 3 nephews: David William Oates, John Edward Oates, and James M. Oates. All men are buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Charlotte.

23 December 1880

On 23 December 1880, a severe railroad accident occurred about 250 yards south of the Plonk Cemetery. The trestle bridge over Indian Creek collapsed. Several lives were lost. Today, you can best view this site by driving to Crouse, and turning left on Boy Scout Road.

1884

Joseph Calvin Plonk was a very accomplished individual.

In 1884, Joseph Calvin Plonk, who became a natural executive with a strong and commanding personality, was brought to Cherokee Falls from the old McAden Mill in North Carolina by the new superintendent, George Gray. Gray, who had succeeded the first “super,” John LeMaster, made Plonk the overseer of the carding room. Gray served as superintendent for a period of sixteen months, after which Plonk held the position until 1900. Plonk became the guiding genius of the Cherokee Falls Manufacturing Company. He was a sturdy spirit of the old school, whose rugged virtues did much to give the community a distinctive atmosphere. A native of Cleveland County, North Carolina, he managed to secure a good education despite the limited educational opportunities of his day. Although Plonk spent his later teens teaching school in upper Cleveland County, he decided that textiles promised a more secure future. He entered mill work at the old mill in McAdenville, North Carolina. When he came to his new employment he did not have a dollar of capital. However, with hard work, tireless energy, a keen brain, and a natural knack in the handling of men, he was able to reach the top of his profession. He married Miss Laura E. Roberts, a sister to the secretary-treasurer of the mill, Rufus P. Roberts. Even though he did not have a child, he adopted Nora Allgood and raised her as his own. Although Plonk did not believe in promiscuous and indiscriminate charity, he did believe in the dignity provided by an opportunity to work and earn an honest livelihood. Since he practiced what he preached by treating his men fairly, his employees became so loyal that fourth and fifth generations of the original employees are still working at Cherokee Falls. (Moss 1972, 338–339)

5 February 1886

Article from the *Newton Enterprise* newspaper, Newton, NC, issue of Feb. 5, 1886:

On the 16th of January Mrs. Sallie Weaver celebrated her one hundredth birthday at her home near Crouse in Lincoln County. Living near Mrs. Weaver are her sister Mrs. Susan Tutherow, aged 98, and her brother Joseph Plonk, aged 96. All are in excellent health and bid fair to live many years yet.

Note Joseph was said to be 96 years old in early 1886. That means he was born in 1789 or January 1790. He was the only child who was not accounted for in the [1790 US Census](#). So, that suggests his birthday was really after 2 August 1790 and that he was really at most 98 years old when he celebrated his 100th birthday in May 1888 and died 2 months later. Well, apparently he thought he was 100. His [gravestone](#) was inscribed with birth year 1788, but other evidence implies his birth was on or after 2 August 1790.

1 May 1888

Joseph Plonk's 100th birthday celebration.

7 May 1888

Lincoln Courier newspaper article about Joseph Plonk's 100th birthday celebration.

11 May 1888

The Charlotte Democrat newspaper article about Joseph Plonk's 100th birthday celebration.

12 May 1888

Article from the *New Era* newspaper, Shelby, NC, issue of May 12, 1888:

Lincolnton, N. C., May 4, 1888 -- Tuesday, May the first, a picnic and family reunion was held at the residence of Mr. Joseph Plonk, near Crouse's Station, by his numerous descendants to celebrate the one hundredth birthday of their old ancestor. About 9 o'clock the people began to arrive on foot, on horseback, in buggies and in wagons until about six hundred people were on the grounds. The centenarian was seated in his room on his easy chair where he received his children. A cordial handshake and kiss were given to all. Seated by his side was his sister Mrs. Sallie Weaver, aged 104. Mrs. Weaver rode several miles in a buggy in order to be present. They had not met in a good many years and their meeting was an affectionate and touching one. There are of Mr. Plonk's descendants now living six children, thirty-six grandchildren, one hundred and four great grandchildren, and five great, great grandchildren, making in all one hundred and fifty-one, of whom about 90 were present. The young people played "tapping" and talked and enjoyed themselves splendidly while the old folks talked politics, coming crops and future prospects in general. At 1 o'clock the dinner, which was brought in baskets, boxes, trunks, and anything that could be hauled in a wagon, was spread on a table about one hundred and fifty feet long; after which Hon. W. L. Crouse was called on and made a very appropriate speech. Grace was asked by Rev. M. L. Little of Gaston College, after which all hands fell to eating. The old parent was seated at the head of the table where he was waited on by one and all. Hon. W. L. Crouse, speaking of the dinner afterwards, said it was the finest he had ever seen. After dinner was over Rev. M. L. Carpenter held service for the benefit of the aged couple under a large apple tree in the yard. After this all his descendants were formed in a line and marched by him so as to give him a good look at them. Several years ago Mr. Plonk fell down a pair of steps and broke his thigh, since which time he has not been able to walk, but he can talk and his mind is remarkably good. He had not seen me in four years and he knew me as soon as I entered the room. It was in fact a success throughout and everyone present enjoyed themselves highly. It was a day that will never be forgotten by those present. The old man said, "Today I am 100 years old and I have enjoyed this day more than any other day in my life." That evening a number of us went to Mr. John Quickle's residence and indulged in pastimes until midnight when we parted and went to our respective homes - a highly pleased and sleepy set. T.P.

5 July 1888

Article from the *Newton Enterprise* newspaper, Newton, NC, issue of Thursday, July 5, 1888:

Mr. Joseph Plonk of Lincoln County died last Sunday night at 10 o'clock. He was buried at 5 o'clock p.m. on Monday, aged 100 years 2 months. Mr. Plonk was the father of our townsman Mr. Michael Plonk. Only a short time ago there was a grand reunion of all his descendants held at his home in Lincoln County. He then had the pleasure of seeing and chatting with all his living relatives.

[Joseph Plunk's gravestone](#) is in the Plonk Cemetery. Later in the 1915 publication of Hoffman's *Our Kin*, (L. M. Hoffman 1915), Martha Ellen Plonk, 1863-1924, wrote:

May 1, 1888 was the last time I, MARTHA PLONK, saw my grandfather (JOSEPH PLONK) while he was living. He died July 1888. I was at the funeral. His wife's grand nephew—REV.

LUTHER M. CARPENTER conducted the religious services. He was buried on the family graveyard on a pretty knoll beside his wife BARBARA RUDISILL PLONK who died in Oct. 1863. His father JACOB PLONK also buried and his wife CHRISTINA KISER PLONK. My wish is that the spot be enclosed, a durable marker of JACOB PLONK, PIONEER & PATRIOT of the PLONK family, and I wish to have the D.A.R. to place the marker JACOB PLONK, INDIAN—REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER. He was known as a PATRIOT DOCTOR and served with the Veterans in the Revolutionary War. If I had been interested in family history in May 1888, I could have learned much worth preserving. I commenced writing reminiscence of my parents after they became weak in body and loved to talk of the past—their kindred and friends. I remember seeing many people at that family reunion mentioned in the HOFFMAN BOOK of OUR KIN.

The minister's name should have been Rev. Michael Luther Carpenter, 1853–1918. He was minister of Ebenezer Lutheran Church during 1877–1891. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

1888

There was supposedly a newspaper article in the Cleveland County Heritage, NC, which was reporting on the celebration of Joseph Plonk's 100th birthday. His sister Sarah "Sallie" Weaver was being interviewed and she was recounting how

her grandfather was granted his land by King George III, and that he was loyal to the British because of this. But his son, Jacob, fought with the Americans.

If this quote is true, it is important. The source has not been found.

1889

I do not know the place of burial of Susannah Tutherow but believe it to be in Ebenezer/St. Paul's Lutheran cemetery, Crouse. According to the newspaper articles Susannah is alive in February 1886, but apparently deceased by May 1888. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

Susannah Plonk, abt 1788–1889, and her husband George Tutherow's, 1785–1880, son Solomon Tutherow, b:1813, married Nancy Moore who was buried in the Plonk Cemetery. Her gravestone is marked "[Fannie Tutherow](#)". Also, Solomon's 4-year-old son [David](#), by his second wife Sarah Hauss, was also buried there. Maybe Susannah Plonk and George Tutherow are among the [graves marked by fieldstones](#) at the Plonk Cemetery? Although this couple could be buried at Ebenezer Lutheran Cemetery marked by fieldstones (Dellinger 2006–2014).

17 April 1891

Article from the *Lincoln Courier* newspaper, Lincolnton, NC issue of April 17, 1891:

Died last Saturday night, April 11, Mrs. Sallie Weaver, aged 106 years. This is doubtless the most remarkable case of longevity ever chronicled in this county. Mrs. Weaver was a most excellent old lady. She was a member of the Lutheran church.

24 April 1891

Article from the *Newton Enterprise* newspaper, Newton, NC, issue of Friday, April 24, 1891:

Mrs. Sallie Weaver of Lincoln County, aunt of our townsman Mr. Michael Plonk, died last week at the advanced age of 105 years. Two years ago her sister Mrs. Tutherow died at the age of 101 years. It is a very long lived family.

24 April 1891

Article from the *Lincoln Courier* newspaper, Lincolnton, NC, issue of April 24, 1891:

Sallie Weaver, nee Plonk, was born Jan. 27, A. D. 1786, and departed this life Apr. 11, A. D. 1891. Aged 105 years 2 months and 14 days. She was the mother of 8 children, two living and six dead. She has 38 grandchildren 80 great grandchildren and 11 great-great grandchildren. The deceased was baptised in infancy, catechised and confirmed in early youth in the articles of the Ev.

Lutheran faith, in which she remained faithful till death. The undersigned conducted the funeral services basing his remarks on the words of Job 14; 11-14. M. L. Carpenter

Having been baptized in infancy meant her family was not Anabaptist in 1786.

Sarah Weaver is buried in the old Weaver cemetery off Landers Chapel Rd., Lincoln Co. Joseph Plonk is buried in the old Plonk cemetery. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

1 May 1891

Article from the *Lincoln Courier* newspaper, Lincolnton, NC, issue of May 1, 1891:

Mr. Editor - The age of Mrs. Weaver whose obituary you printed last week has caused some comment and criticism. This has arisen from the fact that no record has been kept by which her age can be established. Mrs. Weaver in her last illness, as well as upon former occasions, told me her age when she married which was twenty-five years and her firstborn child was born when she was twenty-six years old; also that her birthday was Christmas Day. These are incidents that no one is likely to forget. Her oldest child Mrs. Alexander [Eve Weaver (1812–1910)] of Cleveland County gave me her age at the death of her mother of which she has a record; and her age was seventy-eight years ten months and a few days. Now if we put seventy-eight years and ten months to twenty-six years and four months we have 105 years and two months; her age. Mrs. Tutherow [Susanne Plonk (1788–1889)] died a few years ago, by this statement, at the age of 102 years and her brother [Joseph Plonk (1790-1888)] and my grandfather at the age of ninety-nine years. There is no means of getting the exact date except as stated above of Mrs. Weaver. W. L. Crouse

Here, in 1891, Dr. William L. Crouse stated that his grandfather Joseph Plonk did not quite reach 100 years. But two sisters did.

16 December 1891

Jane Elizabeth Plonk, 1828–1891, daughter of Joseph Plonk and wife of Allen Michael Baker, died from snakebite in winter of 1891 when snakes were hibernating. Was bitten in the springhouse where butter and milk were stored in winter months.

1898–1907

During 5 December 1898–7 January 1907, Rufus Sylvanus Plonk, 1866–1918, son of John Jonas Plonk, 1823–1908, was a Cleveland County Commissioner.

1906

Ebenezer Lutheran Church ceased to exist as a congregation. Its location was at the site of present-day St. Paul's Lutheran cemetery, Pleasant Grove Church Rd., Crouse. (Dellinger 2006–2014)

1908

In an article about Joseph Calvin Plonk, the following information appeared about his grandfather Joseph Plonk:

Joseph Plonk, was born in Lincoln county in 1788, and died in 1888, aged one hundred years and two months. He was a skilled workman, and made spinning-wheels, hand-looms, violins, and many other articles, without the use of machinery. (Hemphill 1908)

1910

Joseph Calvin Plonk, 1852–1939, son of John Jonas Plonk, 1823–1908, and Ann Ellen Oates, 1831–1905, owned a textile mill at Cherokee Falls on Broad River. He built a millpond that trapped as much as 25 percent of river flow. A hydro turbine generated electricity to power textile machinery. He built his [house on the bluff](#) above the river and mill. Allegedly, he believed a college education was a waste of time and advised his nephew Thomas Motley Plonk against it. The latter “ran away from home” to attend Roanoke College in Virginia during 1906–1910. In 1930, Joseph Calvin Plonk added a bronze tablet to the stone marker at the Plonk Cemetery.

21 May 1910

Emma Laura Plonk, Rufus Lawrence Plonk, and William Luther Plonk graduated from Lenoir College, Hickory, North Carolina.

About 1910

Rufus Crowder Baker, 1873–1964, established a grocery store in Kings Mountain, NC. Later, it was owned by his son William David Baker, 1902–1991. (Rudisill 2006–2010)

About 1910

Luther Philip Baker, 1884–1967, started a dentistry practice in Kings Mountain, NC. (Rudisill 2006–2010)

18 September 1913

Joseph Calvin Plonk influenced the routing of the Interurban railroad through Gaffney, SC, instead of Shelby, NC. (Journal and Carolina Spartan 1913)

31 December 1913

Mary Jane Beam, 1832–1913, wife of Colonel Philip Plonk, died. She was buried in the Plonk Cemetery on 1 January 1914.

Joseph Calvin Plonk influenced the routing of the Interurban railroad through Gaffney, SC, instead of Shelby, NC. (Journal and Carolina Spartan 1913) May 1922

Joseph Calvin Plonk, 1852–1939, donated 900 milligrams of radioactive radium to Rutherford County Hospital for cancer treatment in memory of his wife Laura Elvira Roberts, 1857–1921. That donation generated a [notice in the New York Times](#).

June 1923

Laura Emma Plonk, 1890–1966, and her sister Lillian Lenora Plonk, 1894–1979, organized the *Plonk School of Creative Arts* on Charlotte Street, Asheville, North Carolina. That is near Albemarle Park. It remained in business for at least 40 years.

3 November 1927

Shelby Star newspaper clipping of the death of Michael Luther Plonk, 1859–1927. The newspaper reporter avoided euphemisms in the article title: “MIKE PLONK DROPS DEAD IN KINGS MT.” He was son of John Jonas Plonk, 1823–1908, and Ann Ellen Oates, 1831–1905. Michael was buried in Long Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

15 July 1930

[Stone marker](#) erected. Newspaper article:

JACOB PLONK, Revolutionary hero and pioneer settler in Lincoln County, was honored last Tuesday when a granite marker was unveiled in memory of him by the Jacob Forney Chapter of the DAR of Lincolnton.

Mrs. George Brown, Regent of the JACOB FORNEY CHAPTER presided over the unveiling exercises and Attorney Kemp Nixon delivered the address of descendants from this section of the two Carolinas. Mr. Nixon, in his address, paid tribute to the Plonks, saying that the name PLONK has always stood for honesty and integrity. He stated further that the PLONKS, in whose veins flowed the blood of the old pioneer, had a rich heritage. The date of the death of JACOB PLONK is unknown because of lost records, but according to the information as furnished by Mr. Nixon, he must have died around 1840, as that was the last year he received a pension from the government.

The MARKER was unveiled by two boys E. C. Black, Jr., and Ralph Chapman, both descendants of JACOB PLONK. The Bronze Tablet bearing the name of JACOB PLONK, the date of the

Revolutionary War and the DAR Insignia was the gift of CALVIN PLONK of Hickory. Following the ceremonies, the host of people gathered at the home of Mr. & Mrs. P. C. Chapman where a picnic dinner was enjoyed in honor of the 78th birthday anniversary of Mrs. Chapman's father—JOSEPH PLONK.

The present Chapman home where the picnic dinner was held has been in the PLONK family ever since it was settled by JACOB PLONK in the pioneer days. The property was granted JACOB PLONK by King George III of England shortly after he and his brother PETER PLONK emigrated to America and settled in this section.

The Chapman home has been the scene of other birthday anniversaries. JOSEPH PLONK, Sr., the father of Joseph Plonk who celebrated his 78th anniversary last Tuesday, celebrated his 100th birthday at the home place on May 1, 1888 and died two months later. He is buried in the family cemetery also.

July 15, 1930

Newspaper article during week beginning Tuesday, July 15, 1930. Stone marker unveiled on occasion of 78th birthday of David (or Daniel) Joseph Lafayette Plonk, 1852–1936, referred to as Joseph Plonk. Article made two mistakes. David Joseph Lafayette Plonk was the son of Philip Plonk and grandson of centenarian Joseph Plonk. This Jacob Plonk was born in Pennsylvania, after his father Jacob Plonk, Sr. immigrated to America. Calvin Plonk was a reference to Joseph Calvin Plonk, 1852–1939.

William McGuire Plonk remembers attending this birthday as a child.

7 October 1930

Laura Plonk, 1890–1966, organized a dramatization of the Battle of Kings Mountain at the auditorium in Kings Mountain, North Carolina. It was part of the 150th anniversary of the battle. President Herbert Hoover spoke at the battleground. He also drove through the town of King Mountain, NC. William McGuire Plonk remembers attending this event.

30 November 1936

Joseph Lafayette Plonk, 1852–1936, died of a stroke while walking across Highway-150 bridge over Indian Creek, 200 feet from cemetery. He was age 84 years old. He was buried in the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery, Crouse, NC. Home site becomes property of Sallie Mae Plonk and her husband Peter Columbus Chapman, 1873–1957.

1937

In 1937, William L. Sherrill published in *Annals of Lincoln County, North Carolina, 1749 to 1937*:

The descendants of Jacob Plonk, a Revolutionary War hero, gathered on Tuesday, July 15, 1930 at the old Plonk homestead, three miles from Lincolnton, to celebrate the 78th birthday of Joseph [Lafayette] Plonk, a descendant of the pioneer, Jacob Plonk. At the same time the Jacob Forney Chapter of the Daughter of the American Revolution unveiled a marker at the grave of Jacob Plonk with appropriate ceremonies. The marker, a handsome bronze tablet, was given by Calvin Plonk of Hickory. Jacob Plonk with his brother, Peter, came to America from Germany before the Revolution, and settled in this section and both married into the Kiser family. The land on which Jacob Plonk settled was granted him by King George III, shortly after they reached America. The tract has never been out of the possession of the family and is now owned by P. C. Chapman, a descendant of the pioneer. (Sherrill 1937)

Jacob II and his brother Peter were not immigrants from Germany. Jacob II said in his [pension application](#) that he was born in Lancaster County, PA. His brother Peter was younger, and so must have been born in America. This statement confused Jacob II with his immigrant father Jacob I. Some genealogists believe that Jacob I and Dr. Peter Plunk are related. That was possible but unproven.

1950s

Herbert Johnson Plonk donated to the Kings Mountain Hospital which is located on or near his parent's home. A portrait of Herbert is in the hospital lobby.

1957

Bronze plaque was stolen from [stone marker](#) before 1957. (Chapman 2007)

9 October 1960

A fire at the Kings Mountain Country Club destroyed the Rufus Sylvanus Plonk home. The fire started in the kitchen at about 2:45 a.m that Sunday morning. (High Point Enterprise 10 October 1960, 7).

1960s

DAR application of Maude Rheinhardt, 1886–1978, second wife of Joseph Calvin Plonk, 1852–1939.

1960s

The first known written census of Plonk Cemetery gravestones was done by Ann Keener, Richard Goodson, and Frances Goodson, all members of the Lincoln County Historical Association.

1979

Mary Louise McGuire, 1895–1988, wrote [Twigs of the McGuires and Plonks](#).

1980

In 1980, Ann Moore Dellinger, LCHA Historian, made cemetery census. Her recordings are:

- Nancy C. Heafner, died October 24, 1887 aged 16 years, 9 months, 8 days Footstone with initials NCH
- Malinda Heafner, died October 19, 1887, aged 53 years Footstone with initials MH
- No marker but footstone with initials S J H
- Four fieldstones
- Barbara A. S. E. Hauss, died July 20, 1856 aged 3 years
- Frances K. Hauss, died January 16, 1853 aged 3 years
- Two fieldstones
- Philip Plonk born April 17, 1826 died March 20, 1863 Masonic symbol on stone
- One fieldstone
- Michael C. Plonk born October 27, 1853 died August 7, 1880 aged 26 y 9 m 11 d
- The initials B P on a footstone
- Joseph Plunk born May 1, 1788 died July 1, 1888
- David L. Tutherow died May 21 1858 aged 4 yrs 1 mo 20 days
- Two fieldstones
- In memory of Fanny Tutherow died April 15, 1848 aged 24 years Footstone with initials F T
- One fieldstone
- Footstone with initials E I
- Four fieldstones
- Marker with name Susan Hauss
- Three fieldstones
- Barbara Plunk born September 1, 1795 died October 5, 1864 aged 69 years 1 month 4 days
- Seven fieldstones
- One large monument which has had a tablet on it, but now no name, no tablet
- Two fieldstones
- One white broken tombstone piece which has the last name McLean on it. It appears McLean was the tombstone carver and not the name of the deceased.

When Ann Moore Dellinger revisited the cemetery in May 2007, she said that many gravestones had deteriorated during the past 27 years.

1988

Nanne Bethel Plonk, 1908–1988, wrote [Memoirs of the Rufus S. Plonk Family](#).

1990

About 1990, Carroll Johnson noticed one grave was shallowly excavated, but not deep enough to disturb human remains. Carroll refilled the grave. (Johnson 2006–2008)

13 December 2006

[New bronze plaque](#) replaced on stone marker.

13 February 2007

Plonk Cemetery, 0.37 acres, acquired from Kenneth McCurry.

8 October 2007

2.86 acres of land around Plonk Cemetery purchased by Lincoln County Historical Association.

9 August 2014

A Plonk Family reunion of descendants of John Jonas Plonk and Anne Ellen Oates was held at the site of Rufus Sylvanus Plonk's home place in Kings Mountain, North Carolina. Of the 142 attendees, 94 were actual descendants.

20 September 2014

The grave of Jacob Plunk II was honored by the Sons of the American Revolution, Mecklenburg Chapter. At the same event, a new highway marker "Plonk Family Cemetery" was dedicated. The latter was ordered by the Lincoln County Historical Association.

1 October 2014

The broken gravestone of Colonel Philip Plonk in the Plonk Family Cemetery was replaced with a replica of the original gravestone.

Important Questions

Important questions include:

- What did the Plonks grow on their land? Were they self sufficient?
- Are there documents from the 1800s that identify fieldstone graves?
- When did Jacob Plunk II die? Was it 1840 or 1845?
- How is Nancy Moore (Fanny Tutherow) related to the Moses Moore family?
- Are there pictures of the Plonk home place that was built during the 1800s and stood until about 1980?
- Who built the stone and steel bridge over the small stream, and why?

Important Actions

- Examine British archives of North Carolina provincial records for land grants, militia rolls, etc.
- Look for all occurrences of Plunk and Plonk in Lincoln County records from the 1800s.

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