THE
DARTER-TARTER
FAMILY

By
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RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
1965
Darters-Tarters in the Revolution

Lincolnton, North Carolina Deed Book #3

p. 321
Philip Null and wife, Margaret, to Balzer Tarter, March 4, 1786 for 200 acres of land on the waters of Michael Creek in Lincoln County, North Carolina.

This records a sale of land in North Carolina and is followed nine years later with mention of a purchase in Wythe County:

Wythe County Deed Book, page 312
Indenture, October 8, 1795, between Balzer Tarter and Magdelina, his wife, of Wythe County, 1 part and George Wampler of same 2nd part Cons. $30., land in said County, cont. 165 acres, lying on the waters of South Fork of Reed Creek, a branch of New River, etc.

From the following will it can be concluded that Balzer Darter must have been of fairly advanced age by 1800 since the will mentions five children and appears to be the work of a man who has lived a long time and is disposing his affairs.

Wythe County Virginia, Will Book No. 1, Page 149

In the name of God, Amen. This the 16th day of February in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred. I, Balzer Darter, of Wythe County and the State of Virginia, being at present very sick and weak in body but of sound and disposing mind and memory and understanding, thanks be to God, calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed unto all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament; that is to say principally and first of all I recommend my soul into the hands of God, who gave it, and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian like and decent manner, and as touching my worldly estate, wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life.

I give and devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form:

1st. It is my will and I do hereby order, that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid off and satisfied as soon as conveniently may be after my decease.

2nd. It is my will and I do hereby order that my wife,
Magdelena, and my three youngest sons, Fredericks, Christian, and Daniel shall live together on my land on the waters of Cripple Creek, until my youngest son, Daniel, be of age, and then it is my will that the said land shall be equally divided into three parts, one third part thereof with the mansion house shall be for the possession of my wife: the other two moities or thirds shall be equally divided amongst my three aforementioned sons, and in case that one of them being able to purchase the share of the others, it is:

3rd. My will and I do ordain, that my three above named sons shall elect and choose three fit and honest freeholders of, who shall appraise and value the said land, and according to the valuation he shall pay to the other brothers.

4th. It is my will and I do order, that a third part of the land which my wife shall be in possession during her life, shall after he decease also go in equal division to my aforementioned three sons, and according to the appraisement and valuation of three men the one who shall purchase the others part shall pay to the other brothers.

5th. It is my will and I do order out of the money upon hand and due to me from others, first and foremost my brother, Nicholas, shall pay the fees due to the Loyal Company.

6th. It is my will and I do order that all my personal estate be and remain in the hands of my wife and three sons aforementioned without making sale after my decease, to be equally divided in three parts as soon as the youngest is of age, one third to go to my wife and the two other thirds in equal shares to my three first mentioned sons.

7th. It is my will and I order that after my decease, all the increase of my livestock until the time my youngest son come of age shall be equally divided between my wife and my youngest son, Daniel: and then the remainder of the old stock to be divided as mentioned afore.

8th. It is my will and I order, that my three sons above mentioned shall as soon as the youngest is of age, and the division of the personal estate taketh place, from their shares, pay to my daughter, Margaret, five pounds together, and to my daughter, Catherine, the like sum together or jointly.

9th. And lastly I do hereby nominate and appoint my beloved wife, Magdalene and my friend, Stanger to be Executor of this my last Will and Testament: hereby revoking, disan-nualling and making void all former Wills heretofore by me
made, ratifying this and no other to be my last Will and Testament: In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

his
Balzer X Darter (Seal)
mark

Pronounced and delivered by the said testator as his last Will and Testament in the presence of
Peter Spangler,
Peter Wisely,
Samuel Repass.

From the land transactions and from the will, a picture of Balzer Darter may be constructed. From other records, it is known that Christian Darter, presumably Balzer's son, mentioned in the will above, was born in 1771 in North Carolina. This would mean that Balzer would have to have been born c. 1750 since Christian was the second son. Balzer's wife, Magdelina, and Balzer must have sold their North Carolina land after the rest of the brothers had moved on to Wythe County, because their North Carolina sale was not until 1785. The will is of especial interest, however, because it clearly establishes that Balzer and Nicholas were brothers, and the fact that Nicholas named his fifth child, born in 1778, Magdelina, serves only to confirm the close relationship. Balzer's descendants and those of his brothers will be discussed in the next chapter.

Jacob Darter

There is considerable evidence that Jacob Darter was a fourth Darter-brother since his life follows a pattern similar to the three brothers already discussed. Jacob served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war and the available evidence indicates that he may have been the first of the Darter-Tarter brothers to live in Virginia. If this was the case he was probably older than Peter but younger than Nicholas.

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