

*Chapter 1*  
*John I? Grammer*

John Gramer I?		
born	Ca. 1735 <sup>1</sup>	
married		
died		

? Gramer		
born		
married		
died		

## Children<sup>2</sup>

1) Reverend John Grammer			
born	ca. 1755	John I and ? Gramer	Virginia?
married	ca. 1771	Elizabeth ?	Virginia?
died	May 1810		Warren County, Kentucky

The name and birthplace of this ancestor was obtained from a pedigree chart given to Thomas Ashby. He never received further information. So, for now, I leave this ancestor's name as John, although there is currently no proof of that.

There were hundreds of Gramer/Grammers in Pennsylvania in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. These folks were apparently of "Pensylvania Dutch" (actually German) origin. I don't believe these are our Grammers. Instead, I suspect that this ancestor was from one of the following:

- The Petersburg/Dinwiddie County area of Virginia. Why?
  - Petersburg and surrounding counties was home to a large and flourishing Grammer clan. I have not detailed these Grammers here, because there were so many of them. See the "Lost and Found" chapter for details.
  - Senator John was born in Virginia, according to the 1850 Federal Mortality census. Now, whether or not this is true is debatable, because it would have been a secondary source, his widow or one of his descendants, giving the information. Nonetheless, the fact that someone close to him *thought* he was born in Virginia is critical.
- Orange County (later separated to Guilford County), North Carolina, where a few Grammer transactions have been found:
  - On May 13, 1766, a John Jacob Grammer bought 100 acres in Orange County, North Carolina, from William Savage.<sup>3</sup> This could very well be our John I.

<sup>1</sup> Based on estimated birthdate for his son, Reverend John Grammer.

<sup>2</sup> Sources for children listed later in chapter, under each individual child.

<sup>3</sup> *Register of Orange County, North Carolina Deeds*, arranged by date, North Carolina state Archives reel #C.073.48002 (as abstracted in Weeks, page 44).

- In 1771, a John Grammer (presumed to be Reverend John, son of this John I) enlisted as a drummer in Capt. Nathaniel Hart's Company of the Orange Regiment of Melitia "in the late Expedition against the Insurgents of this Province," most probably for the Battle of Alamance. This was prior to the Revolutionary War, and Nathaniel Hart's company was fighting for the British, not the Americans.
  - Reverend John Grammer received a land grant in Tennessee for service in the Continental Line of North Carolina.
  - Other names in the early North Carolina deeds include Clapp, Ferrel, Tripp, Walker, Lumpkin, Ballard, and Carragen (Corgan?), all names that are later associated with or married into the Grammers in either Kentucky or Illinois or both. Later, in Kentucky and Southern Illinois, various Grammers married into the aforementioned Ferrill, Trip, Ballard, and Carragen/Corgan families.
  - Around 1820, Reverend John's supposed grandson, Dr. Joel, married into the aforementioned Clapp family, residents of Orange/Guilford Counties, North Carolina, for many years before moving to Madison County, Alabama.
  - The deeds also include Harman Husbands, leader of the losing side of the Battle of Alamance. Add to this the fact that Husbands had a connection to John Penrod, father of the Penrods who a) migrated to the same areas of Kentucky as the Grammers and b) who married into and were in other ways close to the Grammers in Southern Illinois. It seems that Husbands fled to Pennsylvania after the Regulators lost, and there holed up in John Penrod's cabin in the Glades area of Somerset (now Bedford) County. Even prior to that, he had been John Penrod's hunting partner in the same area.
- Both of the above.
    - These areas of Virginia and North Carolina were geographically close to one another, and there was a clear trade pattern between the two areas, because Petersburg, Virginia, served as the port for the Orange County, NC area.

As of yet, I have absolutely no proof of any of this. In any case, I will concentrate my research in Virginia and North Carolina.

## Research Notes

### North Carolina

- Weeks, Eve B. *Register of Orange County, North Carolina Deeds, 1752-1768, and 1793*. Danielsville, Georgia: Heritage Papers, 1984.
  - John Jacob Grammer, grantor, William Savage, grantee, 100 acres of land sold, May 13, 1766, Orange County, NC. This same book lists deed for Nathaniel Hart, plus the Clapps, Herman Jusbands, and even a Nicholas Tripp.

### Virginia

*(Kentucky was a part of Virginia in 1790)*

- *Heads of Families, First Census of the United States-1790, Virginia*. Washington: Bureau of the Census, 1908. See "Lost and Found."
- Bentley, Elizabeth Petty. *Index to the 1810 Census of Virginia*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1980. Page 130. Burwell, 2 Johns, John Jr., Joshua, Nathan, William, and Williamson, of Nottoway, Dinwiddy, and Prince George Counties. See "Lost and Found" for more information.
- Dinwiddie County, Virginia: I checked county records for Grammers, but all marriages, wills, and probates prior to 1833 have been destroyed.
- Caution: A John Gramme lived in Dinwiddie County in the early 1700s. All records for him in the area are consistent in spelling it without the final "R.", so it appears that he is not one of our Grammers.

### Miscellaneous

- *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 37:4: December 1949, page 115. "Grammer-Ridout Families of Maryland." Added info to "Lost and Found."
- Pope, Charles Henry. *A History of the Dorchester Pope Family, 1634- 1888*. UMI #G1683.
- Clapp, Ebenezer. *The Clapp Memorial*. UMI #G51.
- Andrews, Alfred Stokes. *The Andrews, Clapp, Stokes, Wright, VanCleve Genealogies*. UMI #G1053.
- Whitsett, William Thornton. *History of Brick Church and the Clapp Family*. UMI #LH 92.
- A Kimmel researcher suggested trying area that is now Somerset County, PA, because that's where the Penrods and Kimmels were from. History of Somerset County: Lancaster -> 1750 Cumberland -> 1771 Bedford -> 1795 Somerset
- Walter G. Kimmel did a Kimmel genealogy in 1892 about Kimmels in the area that is "now Somerset County, Pennsylvania." **Get this to see if it has any leads on the Grammers.**