

GARRISON FAMILY HISTORYBROAD RIVER AREA - BLACK MOUNTAIN, N.C.

As word of mouth has it, many years ago the Garrisons came into this country from France and at some time 4 or 5 Garrison brothers left their Virginia home near Richmond to relocate. It is said 3 of them located in North Carolina. 1 or 2 went further south around Charleston, South Carolina or Savannah, Georgia. This history begins with William A. Garrison (1812-1893) who settled in the Broad River, section of Black Mountain, North Carolina and who is the first Garrison to settle there (approximately 1835). At this point there is also reason to include a Mr. Murphy from Edenton, North Carolina whose family ties into and becomes a part of the Garrison history. In Mr. Murphy's decision to become a soldier of the Revolutionary War, he also made the decision to send his wife, children, slaves and farm animals to the mountains of Western North Carolina to escape the British. He was later killed in this war. His wife and family remained in Broad River, making this their home. As time passed, they opened their home as a stagecoach stop with overnight lodging and food at Broad River calling it the High Porch Tavern, on the approximately 50 mile run from Morganton to Asheville. By this time, the son James Murphy had grown, married and had a daughter. This daughter Sarah Emeline Murphy (1823-1912) was living at her family home and stagecoach stop, when she met, fell in love and married a young stagecoach driver, William A. Garrison (1812-1893) who at the most opportune time had made arrangements with some local politicians to transport them by stage to Washington D. C. and decided to carry his new bride along for their honeymoon. On trips of any distance he always had to carry a Bible in the event a passenger should die and he had to bury them. He was also required to sign a document stating he would give his life, if necessary, for the protection of his passengers. It is not known just when William A. Garrison stopped his job as stage coach driver but the stage coach run

continued until the railroad came into the area just after the Civil War.

They had nine children as follows:

1. Mary H. Garrison B-1843
2. John H. Garrison B-1845
3. Tourany Elizabeth Garrison B-1848
4. James Calhoun Garrison B-1850
 - a. His wife was Indian or part Indian
 - b. In the family today (1990) in the custody of Evelyn Garrison Colonna is a cast iron kettle that belonged to and was used by James Calhoun Garrison and his wife & family in their Broad River, North Carolina home.
5. Anne Garrison B-1851
6. Martha Jane Garrison B-1854
7. Merilda Dory Garrison B-1857
8. William Albartes Garrison B-1861
9. Levinia Emeline Mesoury Adelane Garrison B-1866

William A. Garrison by trade had become a skilled carpenter and contracted to build the courthouse in Atlanta, Georgia. During the contract he went broke, thus landing him in debtor's prison. His wife being put out with him, swearing never to speak with him again took the children and hitchhiked back home to Broad River. But upon his return she was overjoyed. In 1893 he was attending an election on a whiskey referendum about 4 miles from home when a thunderstorm came up. He and others were standing under a tree when lightning struck the tree, killing him, another man and 2 mules.