

Notes on Barger family

Casper Barger...

According to Mary Kegley (*Early Adventures on the Western Waters, Volume I*), the family known by the name of Barger was probably also known by several other names (Barrier, Berrier, Barringer, Berger, Barrager, and Barringer). She lists information about many various members of the family (Abram, Adam, Barbara, Casper, Catherine, Christian, Daniel, Eve, Frederick, George Washington, Harriet, Jacob, James, Jane, Jenny, John, Margaret, Mary, Mary Keister, Nancy, Phillip, Polly, Sarahan Keister, and William), and gives a brief sketch about the family as well as some information about the Barger cemetery and fort. I will show here highlights of Kegley's research and try to summarize what we know of this family, and then combine it with other information we have from other sources.

Casper Barger came to the new world on the ship *Winter Galley*, along with 352 passengers, arriving at Philadelphia on Sept. 5, 1738. "Among those on board were Philip Harless (also spelled Harless, Herless, Herlos, Horlas, Herlass, etc.), Casper Berger (Barger, Barriger, etc.), Adam Wall and Johan Michael Preis (Price). These immigrants became neighbors on the New River at an early date (Rupp, *30,000 Names*, p. 115)...Kegley p. 216

"Adam Wall was a very early settler on the east bank of the New River, probably coming there with his companions Casper Berger, Philip Harlas, and Johan Michael Preis. This group traveled from the Palatinate in 1738 to Philadelphia on the ship *Winter Gallery*, and probably stopped in Pennsylvania before coming to the New River (Rupp, *30,000 Names*, p. 115)"...Kegley p. 277

Kegley also found interesting evidence about items belonging to Casper Barger before his death (in 1755)...

Casper Barger had among his horses a red "rone" and a black "rone" mare

Some pioneers, like John Elswick, John Noble, and Casper Barger had two sets or pairs of plow irons.

George Draper and Casper Barger were unusual in owning six (hoes) each. The mattocks also appeared in about half of the inventories. Casper Barger was unusual, owning three.

Jacob Goldman and Casper Barger owned brass kettles, and Samuel Crockett had a tin kettle. (John Noble, John Elswick, John Bingamin, and John Buchanan each had skillets or frying pans, some of iron, pothers of "bell metal" (a variety of bronze). Buchanan owned a tea kettle and coffee pot.

Casper Barger, for example, owned two feather beds, three pillows, and 3 sheets. Casper Barger owned a table, the only one mentioned between 1749 and 1769. Barger's estate mentions a chamber pot. Casper Barger owned a great coat and one pair of breeches.

Jacob Goldman, John Bingamin, George Draper, Israel Lorton, and Casper Barger, all deceased before 1755, had books in their possessions at the time of their death.

Draper, Casper Barger and the Prices were in the bounds of the big survey (Patton's). They and any others there or about to settle there (within the survey) received their titles for the tracts chosen from Colonel Patton through the year 1754. Here is Mary Kegley's description of the Barger family:

Casper Barger (Barrier, Barriger, etc.) purchased 507 acres adjoining William Ingles and William Lippard in 1754 (*Chalkley, Chronicles*, III, 321). This tract was part of the 7,500

acres known as Draper. Barger was one of those killed by the Indians in the same raid that took the life of Colonel James Patton and others in 1755 (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, II, p. 510). His widow, Margaret, was made administrator of his estate which was recorded in 1760 (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, III, 59, 60). She bought lands on a branch of the Shenandoah River in 1765, and the deed was delivered to Casper Barrier, presumably her son, in 1769 (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, III, 426). There is no evidence that Margaret or Casper, Jr. ever came to New River.

But Phillip (also Philip) Barger, the son of Margaret and Casper Sr. appeared to reclaim his father's lands about 1771. At this date he appears on a tithable list of New River settlers (Kegley, *Tithables*), and in the next year was appointed with others to view a road. He served again as a road viewer in 1773, 1775, and 1779 and in 1781 was replaced as surveyor of the road between Price's Fork and the county line (Summers, *Annals*, pp.149, 640,728, 807, 749).

In 1774, during Dunmore's War, he served under James Byrn for 3 days and received pay amounting to 4/6 (Auditor's Accounts of Fincastle County; Kegley, *Soldiers*). In 1778 when Thomas Heavin was summoned on a charge of disloyalty to the cause of independence, Philip Barger was one of the witnesses summoned for the state (Preston Papers, Draper Mss., 4QQ 160).

In 1793 Phillip Barger sold to his son, Casper (sometimes Gasper), 200 acres on Tom's Creek adjoining Robert McGee and John McDaniel's heirs, where Casper was then living. The son, John Barger, received from his parents, Phillip Barger, Sr., and wife, Barbara, for love and affection, 120 acres on Cedar Creek of the Roanoke River (Montgomery County Deed Book B, p. 105; C, p. 655).

Phillip Barger, Jr., appears to have received 200 acres at the headwaters of Strouble's Creek which he sold in 1803 to James P. Preston. This was part of the original Barger tract of 507 acres, which in turn was part of a larger tract of 7,500 acres called Draper. The land was sold by James P. Preston in 1807 to Granville Smith who appears to have named the plantation Solitude (Montgomery County Deed Book D, pp. 13, 514). The name first appears in 1816 when James P. Preston is applying to the court for permission to build a water grist mill (Montgomery County Will Book 2, p. 359). The heirs of Granville Smith: Preston Smith, Marcellus Smith, Lysander Smith, Harriett L. Smith, Ann Smith, and Tarlten P. Smith all of Richmond, sold Solitude back to James P. Preston in 1822 (Deed Book O, p. 605). It is Robert Preston who is credited with building the present Solitude about 1859. This tract was sold to VPI in 1873 and then contained 244 acres. The house can presently be seen across the Duck Pond on the campus.

In 1798 Philip Barger and John Preston had a survey made containing 425 acres of land. In 1800 Barger mortgaged his farm containing about 500 acres to Alexander Fulton, a merchant of Baltimore, Md. (Montgomery County Deed Book C, p. 252). The heirs, other than the three sons just mentioned, brought suit in Botetourt Chancery Court to recover the lands. This was done, but Fulton died without making the deed, and Lewis Amiss, as special commissioner, was instructed to make the deed. This was done for the heirs in 1825. The list of the heirs of Philip Barger, Sr., can be found in Deed Book IJ, p. 111 in Montgomery County as follows: Christian, Adam, Eve, who married Dangerfield Dobbins, Catherine, who married John D. Helms, Jacob, Frederick, Jane, who married Martin Shatter,

and Mary, who married John Ballinger. The same deed refers to Caster, Philip and John as sons of Philip Barger, Sr.

The estate of Philip Barger deceased was given in by Gas[per and John Barger on Oct. 2, 1802 (Montgomery County Will Book 1, p. 155) and included the following items: a woman slave valued at £60, horses, mares, "fillys" valued at £172.15.0; cows, calves, and two-year-olds valued at £65.5.6; 14 hogs; 17 sheep valued at £13.23. The estate also included harrows, plows, irons, log chain, cross cut saw, 8 "pitche" forks, spades, mattocks, grubbing hoes, "frows." "mall," wedges, augers, adzes, saws, carpenter's tools, cutting knives, sythes, sickles, steelyards, chains, clevises, doubletrees, and old musket, and old wagon, harness gears, bridles and lines, 10 still tubs, hogsheads, barrels, vessels and tub at the spring house, hackles, bleaching can, dresser, furniture, pot racks, stone jugs, books, beds, table chairs, trunks, 2 wheels, pewter and tin ware, a bake over, watered flax, and rye and hay stacks.

Philip Barger's widow, Barbara, sold her dower interest in the home place to her son John, who took over on his father's plantation. John and his wife, Jane, had ten children and both left wills in Montgomery County.

John wrote his will on March 21, 1821 and it was recorded in May the same year (Montgomery County Will Book 3, p. 257). In the will he named his wife, Jenny, who was to have the place where he lives and at her death the place was to be sold and the money divided among the ten children. Only sons John and William, are mentioned in the will, the latter to receive from the final settlement of the estate an additional \$100 because of "his unfortunate defect in eyesight." The lands on Little River which he owned and the mountain were to be sold.

When James Barger wrote her will on Nov. 12, 1857 she mentions her granddaughter, Virginia Ann Vaught, and her son, George Washington Barger of Indiana. The will was recorded in January 1860 (Montgomery County Will Book 9, p. 321). Several of the children are mentioned in the deeds as they exchanged and sold shares in their father's estate. Most of them sold to William I. Barger. By William Barger's will he left his mother the interest in the plantation and in 1853 she exchanged the lands for maintenance and support for her lifetime, the moiety with the brick house to go to Henry Stanger of Raleigh, and the other moiety with a house on it where John W. Evans lives to go to James S. Vaught of Giles County. Other children of John Barger Sr. mentioned in the deeds in clued James, John, Polly Webb, Phillip, Nancy, Harriet, and Abram H. Barger (Montgomery County Deed Book L, pp. 1, 2, 421, 423; IJ, p. 60).

The Barger Cemetery on Route 650, about 200 feet off the Price's Fork Road on Phillip's land, is the burial place of John Barger (1771 – 18210 and his wife Jane (1772 – 1859) and their sons John and Daniel, as well as several of the Webb and Stanger connection (VPI archives).

The estate of John Barger deceased was listed on May 4, 1821 and included the following items: (Montgomery County Will Book 3, p. 439) 47 sheep, 6 hogs, 19 shoats, one wagon, 4 milk cows, 5 yearlings, one "Ulind mill and riddles," 4 horses and a foal, one "Bar share" plow, 2 clevises single and double, 2 pr. Hames, 3 pr. Traces, 3 hip straps, 3 bridles, 5 collars, 3 back bands and one belly band; thee tar barrels, one cutting box, old scythes and

cradles, a crosscut saw, augers, adze, chisels, gouge, drawing knives, anvil, a rule, handsaw, iron wedges, hobbles, "mall rings," shovel plow, one cow tongue plow and stock, on e smith's stake, 2 plow screws, hook and dung fork, mattocks, axes, shovel, hoes, coulter plow, plow share, wheel barrow, a grindstone, 1 ¼ tons plaster, about 3,000 shingles, a cupboard, 6 cattle, a set of measures, and a wooden clock.

Historian Johnston, in hi History of the Middle New River, mentions Casper Barger's fort on Tom's Creek, where he states Captain John Floyd was in command during the Indian problems of 1777 (p. 62).

The Barges were associated with St. Peter's Lutheran Church, and some baptisms are in their records (see Heavener, *German New River Settlement*). (Kegley 190-192)

Kagley states that Casper Barger was killed at Draper's meadows on July 30, 1755 (Preston Papers, Draper MSS, 1 QQ-83)... "Margaret Berrier DMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE...SURETIES Christopher Vinyard and Lawrence Huntsman (Book 2, 409)...Appraisal by George Trout, William Kear, and George Peterson, recorded November 24, 1760.