

Pruett/Pruitt/Prewitt is a public family group on [myfamily.com](#). To add content or comment you must be a member.

[Request to join this group](#)



Pruett/Pruitt/Prewitt

Search tags in this group

[Home](#) [DNA Console](#) [Compare DNA](#) **[Discussions](#)** [Photos & videos](#) [Calendar](#) [Files](#) [Shop](#) [Members](#)

Possible Pruett/Pruitt/Prewitt Migrations in VA.

The Pruett/Pruitt/Prewitt Families of VA may have migrated from VA similar to the Dennison family of England. This paragraph from the Dennison DNA project probably applies to our family, too:

"Pittsylvania County was overwhelmingly settled, not by the Scotch-Irish whose initial settlements were beyond the mountains, but by tidewater Virginians slowly trickling west. This was true of Pittsylvania's parent county, Halifax, to the east, and of its child county, Henry, to the west. And the same east to west pattern applied to the next northern tier of counties, from Lunenburg, to Bedford, to Franklin County. Furthermore, these early settlers of Virginia's piedmont, and "south side", continued west mostly in the wake of the Scotch-Irish, progressing to Tennessee and Kentucky a decade or two later."

(From these "south side" VA counties it seemed many Pruett/Pruitt/Prewitt Families also went to NC, SC, GA, AL and then throughout the USA.)-JP

From the Dennison DNA Project:

<http://www.johnbrobb.com/JBR-DEN-2.htm>

Comments



Mardine Campbell Feb 2, 11

My Fuller family migrated from Isle of Wight VA to Granville County NC. Then when Arthur Fuller had had several confrontations with Lord Granville's agents, he sold his property and moved to Halifax/Pittsylvania county. Other families seem to have done the same, i.e., moving from Isle of Wight to Pittsylvania County.



Marcia McClure Feb 2, 11

Good point Mardine. Granville was a long strip across northern NC and land grants there were chaotic. Many of the early settlers just squatted so it's hard to pin point just when they arrived there. I could see where the hassles would lead to families moving on where clear title to land was easier. Virginia was such a good little British Colony. They tried to follow all the rules.

One exception seems to have been Bill's Frederick Co, MD family who show up in Pittsylvania. Maybe they were looking to get away from their former Scots-Irish neighbors!

Thanks John!



Bill Pruiett Feb 2, 11

I love looking at migration patterns because they can help us understand so much about our ancestors including the reasons they moved from one place to another and the company they kept when they moved. There were several families who moved from Frederick Co., Md. (present day Montgomery Co.) to Pittsylvania Co., Va. around 1762 - including the Pruitts, Hawkers and Butts. There had to be something (probably land availability) that was drawing them to Pittsylvania around the same time as others were coming there from the Tidewater area and Henrico Co., Va. The part of Frederick Co., Md. where my ancestors lived was divided up into very large land tracts owned by just a few families like the Beales and Snowdens. If you wanted to own land, you had to go south and west. From Pittsylvania, many Pruitts moved on to Georgia and Kentucky in the early 1800s; however, my Pruitts stayed in Pittsylvania until the 1890s when they went to southwestern Ohio for reasons that are not known by me.

Another fascinating thing about migrations is trying to figure out the route they traveled and the mode of transportation. I have driven down Rt. 29 from northern Virginia to Pittsylvania many times. Each time I make that trip I think about how tough it had to be for those families to pack everything they owned in their horse-drawn wagons and head south through the hills and valleys of central Virginia. My Turner ancestors traveled from western Pennsylvania to southwestern Ohio in 1808 and stories written a few decades later indicate that they traveled by flatboat. Sounds a little less grueling. I have no idea how my Pruitts traveled from Pittsylvania to southwestern Ohio in the 1890s. Train, perhaps?



John W. Pruett-VA DF13 Feb 2, 11

Bill, there is good article on Migration Patterns in VA which says the main reason for the migration from VA was free land. Apparently until Thomas Jefferson replaced in 1776 the laws of primogeniture and entail with estate rules which allocated the land to be divided more evenly with 1/3 to the wife and the remainder to be divided equally among the sons there was little land to pass on.

Migration Patterns From Virginia

<http://www.cstone.net/~bobdf/migrations.html>

Also, David Bell has written an excellent article on Migrations in VA 1607-1775 which is posted on Genforum:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/va/bedford/messages/812.html>

VIRGINIA MIGRATION PATTERNS

1607-1775

By DAVID BELL



Mardine Campbell Feb 2, 11

Thanks for the websites, John. The Philadelphia to Georgia route was over the Great Wagon Road. Some of my Fullers moved to Cherokee County GA via the Great Wagon Road. There is a good history of this road called "The Great Wagon Road" by Parke Rouse Jr. It was well maintained after the Revolutionary War. Prior to the war NC and SC portions were well populated with highwaymen and hooligans.

And, some of the Pruitts moved with the Fullers from Pittsylvania Co to Cherokee Co in the 1840s to start what was locally called "the Little Virginia Colony." They went there to raise tobacco. And probably corn. There were a lot of stills in north Georgia before and after the Civil War, just as there were in KY.

By the way, Marcia, the Fullers had several plantations in Granville county. That's why it was a big deal when Arthur sold all of his land and moved to Pittsylvania County. His brothers and nephews remained there however. I really wish I knew what set him off to move from Granville Co.



Marcia McClure Feb 2, 11

Don't you wish that they would have left a journal or a diary to give us some clues!? Can you imagine the walk from PA to SC or GA? Along with all of your worldly belongings, the few that you could take...



John W. Pruett-VA DF13

Wrote this on Feb 1, 11

35 views • 6 comments

↩ Newer Older →

Tags

FamilyGroupB

FamilyGroupF

Most recent discussions by John W. Pruett-VA DF13

[Well its official, Ancestry is shutting down our Pruett/Pruitt/Prewitt Project on September 5th](#)

[The PREWTT - PRUITT RECORDS of VIRGINIA by Richard A. Prewitt has been uploaded to the file section.](#)

[A DNA Comparison file of our Family Groups has been uploaded to the file section](#)

[Welcome Charlie Prueitt!](#)

[Welcome Justin Prueitt](#)

Most recent discussions

[Well its official, Ancestry is shutting down our Pruett/Pruitt/Prewitt Project on September 5th](#)

[What happens to this information](#)

[The PREWTT - PRUITT RECORDS of VIRGINIA by Richard A. Prewitt has been uploaded to the file section.](#)

[Seeking a Y-DNA Tested Direct Male Descendant of James Burriss Pruitt \(1832-1914\) of Anderson, SC](#)

[New Member with Anderson County, South Carolina Pruitt Lineage](#)