

# William Bryson Sr., Bio.

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## WILLIAM BRYSON

William Bryson, born ca. 1700, came from Antrim Co., Ireland. He settled in Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania with several of his brothers. Records show that they were members of the Presbyterian church at this time, however in ensuing years, this particular branch of the family became members of the Baptist church in North Carolina.

William Bryson married Elizabeth Countryman of West Camp, Albany Co., New York (now Columbia Co.). She was born on October 14, 1716, to Frantz and Sibylla (Scharrmann) Countryman, of Germany. Records show that Elizabeth lived to the ripe old age of one hundred and eighteen years, and is buried near Snyders Store in Beta, NC. "In 1812, Daniel Granderson Bryson moved across the Balsam Mountain on a sled, bringing with him his wife, one child and his aged grandmother (great-grandmother), nee Countryman, who survived to the unusual old age of one hundred eighteen years."

William and Elizabeth Bryson had seven sons, William Jr.\*, John, Hugh, Daniel, Samuel, Elisha and James. Between 1750 and 1760, four of these sons migrated to Rowan Co., NC. Later, due to the Indian menace, they temporarily settled in the 96th District and lived near Cowpens and Kings Mountain.

Several of the sons served in the Revolution and it is said that Elizabeth Countryman Bryson carried water all day long to the men who fought at Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780 and Cowpens, January 17, 1781. (Ref. NC; Rebuilding An Ancient Commonwealth, by Robert Diggs Wimberly Conner, Vol.. 4, pg. 89, 543; Book of Names by MacWethy, pg. 33; The Sylva Herald, August 30, 1951.

It appears that William Bryson (Sr.) was still living in Rowan Co., North Carolina in 1788, where his name appears in a land sale. (See William Bryson, Jr.)

Information from the Bryson family history by Ethel S. Updike, furnished by Mattie Pearl Bryson McGaha