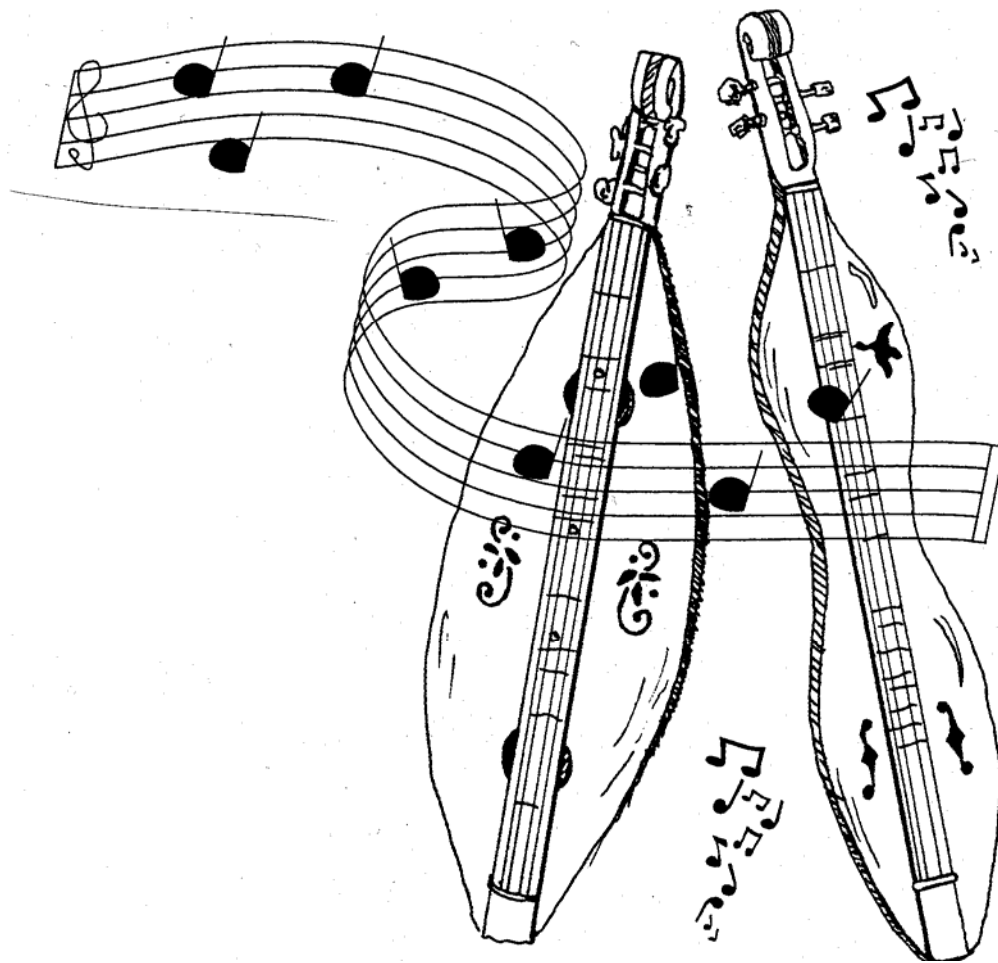


The Dulcimer in Southwestern Virginia



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THE DULCIMER IN SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA

Introduction

In pre-electric society, folks had to make their own music. The fiddle, banjo, guitar, fife, flute, tin whistle, and dulcimer were some of the instruments available to a middle-class farm family. In many cases, the person seeking an instrument to play either built it by hand or perhaps found an individual in the community who was skilled at instrument making. By the mid-19th century, factory-produced instruments also became available. Frequently these instruments were used for home entertainment, but often residents of a community would get together for a dance and everyone would bring their instruments with them to provide music for the gathering.

When we think of traditional music, we tend to focus on the better-known instruments such as the fiddle and banjo, which have their origins outside the United States. Another instrument, the dulcimer, is not as well known.

The mountain, lap, or Appalachian dulcimer belongs to the family of instruments known as zithers. The dulcimer is a direct descendent of the scheitholt, a member of the zither family that was found in the Pennsylvania area. Many of the folks that settled that region were from northern Europe where numerous folk cultures had fretted zithers. The dulcimer's fret pattern is unlike any other stringed instrument in current use in the United States. The frets on a dulcimer are arranged in such a manner that only a diatonic scale can be played as opposed to the chromatic scales that are possible on instruments such as the guitar and banjo. Basically, a diatonic scale is like having only the white keys of a piano to create music. The black keys, which are sharps and flats, are absent. "In America, most old scheitholts and most old dulcimers are fretted in such a way that the instrument's melody string plays the Mixolydian scale without accidentals, beginning at the open fret. This identical fret pattern provides strong evidence of the modification of the scheitholt into the dulcimer on the early frontier" (Smith, January 13, 2005).

The dulcimer is believed to have been developed in the region that extends from southwestern Pennsylvania to western Virginia some time in the late 1700s or early 1800s. The oldest dulcimer found that is dated has an inscription that reads: "Floyd County Virginia made by John Scales Jr. August the 28th 1832" (Smith, Appalachian Dulcimer Traditions, p. 4). Some research indicates that the dulcimer was never found over a widespread area but was only found in a few isolated areas, or pockets, in the Appalachian region.

Was one of those "pockets" in the Roanoke-New River Valleys region? Or was the Floyd County dulcimer just an anomaly? If there were dulcimers found here, what ethnic background were the owners and makers? These are some of the questions that are being addressed by this research paper.

Research Method

In an attempt to determine the prevalence of the dulcimer in this region, inventory and estate appraisements from 1780 to 1860 were examined in twelve counties: Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Grayson, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Roanoke, and Wythe. This area covers a distance of 99 miles east to west and 44 miles north to south, or a total of 4,356 square miles.

The main search was for any listing of dulcimers, but note was also made of other musical instruments. When a dulcimer was discovered in the records, the ancestry of that person was researched to determine their ethnic origins. Other data includes dulcimers found by decade, value of dulcimers, economic class of dulcimer owners, locations in relation to other dulcimer owners, spelling variants, and family connections between the various owners.

A challenge while doing this research was trying to determine whether a dulcimer listed in an inventory referred to an Appalachian dulcimer or a hammered dulcimer. I had no way of knowing which was which since no descriptions were given of the items, but according to Gifford in his book on hammered dulcimers:

“Other evidence from the early nineteenth century indicates that people living far from the Eastern seaboard used the dulcimer, or at least an instrument called by that name. Since the evidence is literary and there seems to be no knowledge of the traditional use of the hammered dulcimer in some of these areas, the instrument called ‘dulcimer’ in these references more likely refers to the Appalachian dulcimer. Certainly by the 1820s, the word ‘dulcimer’ did describe this instrument.” (Gifford, p. 244)

It would appear that the hammered dulcimer was more common in the northern part of the United States in places such as New York and Michigan. “An increase in the popularity of the hammered dulcimer occurred in the 1830s and 1840s in western New York and probably in other places, such as West Virginia” (Gifford, p. 251).

If the dulcimer evolved from the scheitholt, then one would think that at least a few scheitholts would have been found in the records. I find it rather unusual that I did not find any scheitholts listed in the inventories I examined. Many of the folks that settled the research region came from Pennsylvania where the instrument was referred to as a “zitter” (zither) (Smith, 14 January 2005). However, no listings of either were found. There could be several reasons for this, as indicated below:

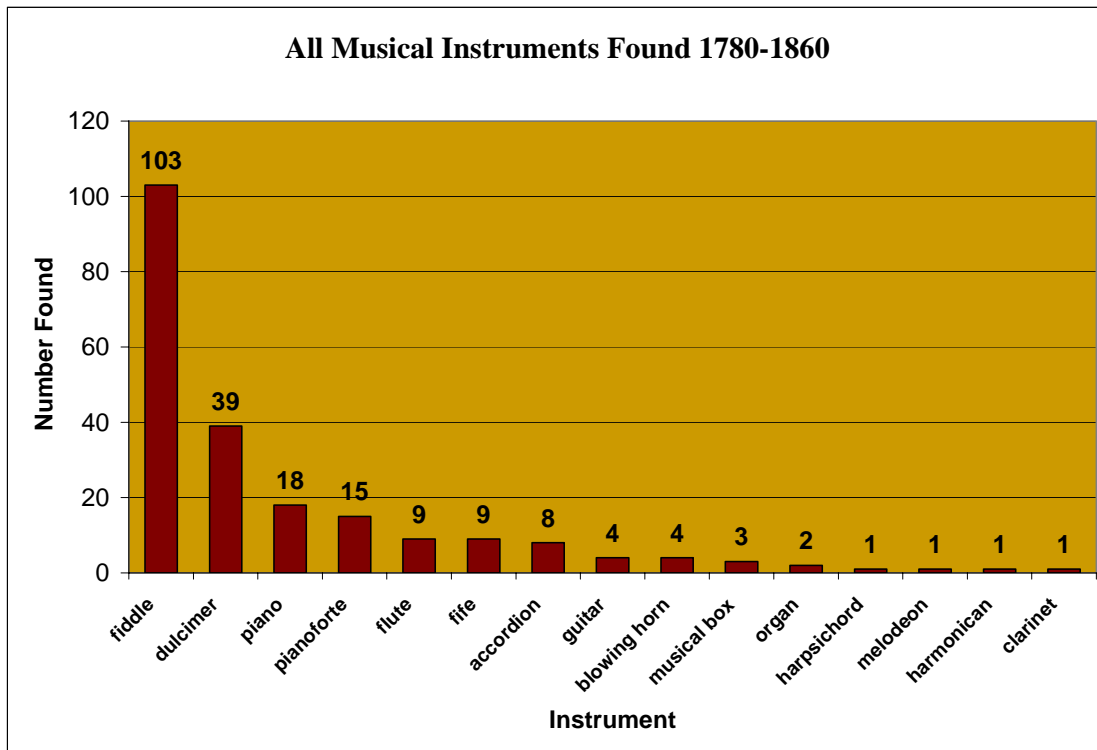
The earliest dulcimer found was in the year 1818. In the years from 1780 (the earliest time period examined) to 1818, neither dulcimers nor scheitholts were found. The transition from one instrument to the other may have occurred during this time. Still, it would seem that at least a few scheitholts or zithers would have been found. To fully follow through with this, the records before 1780 would need to be carefully examined to see if the scheitholt or zither makes an appearance at an earlier date.

Perhaps some of the dulcimers listed in inventories were actually scheitholts. If the appraisers of the estates were English speaking, they may have assumed that a particular instrument was a dulcimer and listed it as such. In approximately 10 inventories of German dulcimer owners, the estate appraisements were conducted by family members or other Germans in the community. In the remainder, it appears that the appraisers were of English descent. Both the German and English appraisers may have listed the instrument found as a dulcimer since that may have been the prevailing terminology, rather than dealing with the strange sounding scheitholt, zither, or zitter.

Here's another consideration: There could have been many more dulcimers than what was found in this research project. This project is only representative of what was found in estate appraisements that were conducted when someone died. The problem is that everyone who died did not have an estate appraisal. Intestate succession is controlled by statute in Virginia. The period from 1780 to 1819 is not easy to research because there was no unified code, only a compilation of statutes in Hening. There was a Revised Code of 1819 published and another in 1849. The basic structure of probate has remained essentially the same over the years. When there is intestate succession, the estate must be appraised before distribution. If it cannot be divided in kind, the executor will sell. When there is a will, the appraisal is often waived. Normally, the executor does not sell the estate in testate succession, but distributes according to the instructions in the will (Dixon, 20 September 2004). Even though a fair number of estates was never appraised and thus not available for research, I believe the instruments found indicate a fair sampling.

Instruments Found

Overwhelmingly, the most frequently listed instrument was the fiddle/violin. The fiddle/violin first makes an appearance in 1780 in Bedford County. Between 1780 and 1860, a total of 103 were found in the 12 counties. The next most listed instrument was the dulcimer with a total of 39. The earliest dulcimers were found in 1818 in both Bedford and Franklin Counties. Keeping in mind that these dulcimers were listed in estate inventories, one would have to think that the owners probably had the instruments for several years, if not decades, before they died, which would push the date of the dulcimer back to as early as 1800.



The fiddle/violin was obviously a very popular instrument. It was often used at dances and gatherings or perhaps to perform classical music at more upper-class homes when visitors “came calling.” The dulcimer appears to be more of a middle- and lower-class instrument (*see chart on page 8*) that was used to either accompany the fiddle at dances or to play more sedate tunes in the home. The piano and pianoforte were usually found in upper-class homes. The piano was an expensive instrument to purchase, and transporting these large instruments by horse and wagon on unpaved, rough roads was not an easy task!

It was surprising that no banjos were mentioned in the inventories examined. “By the 1850s the banjo was sweeping America in unprecedented numbers” (Bloom, Jan 11, 2005). There are perhaps several reasons why the banjo does not make an appearance. One may have been the banjo’s popularity, meaning it may have been removed either by family members or friends before the appraisers inventoried the estates. Also, many of

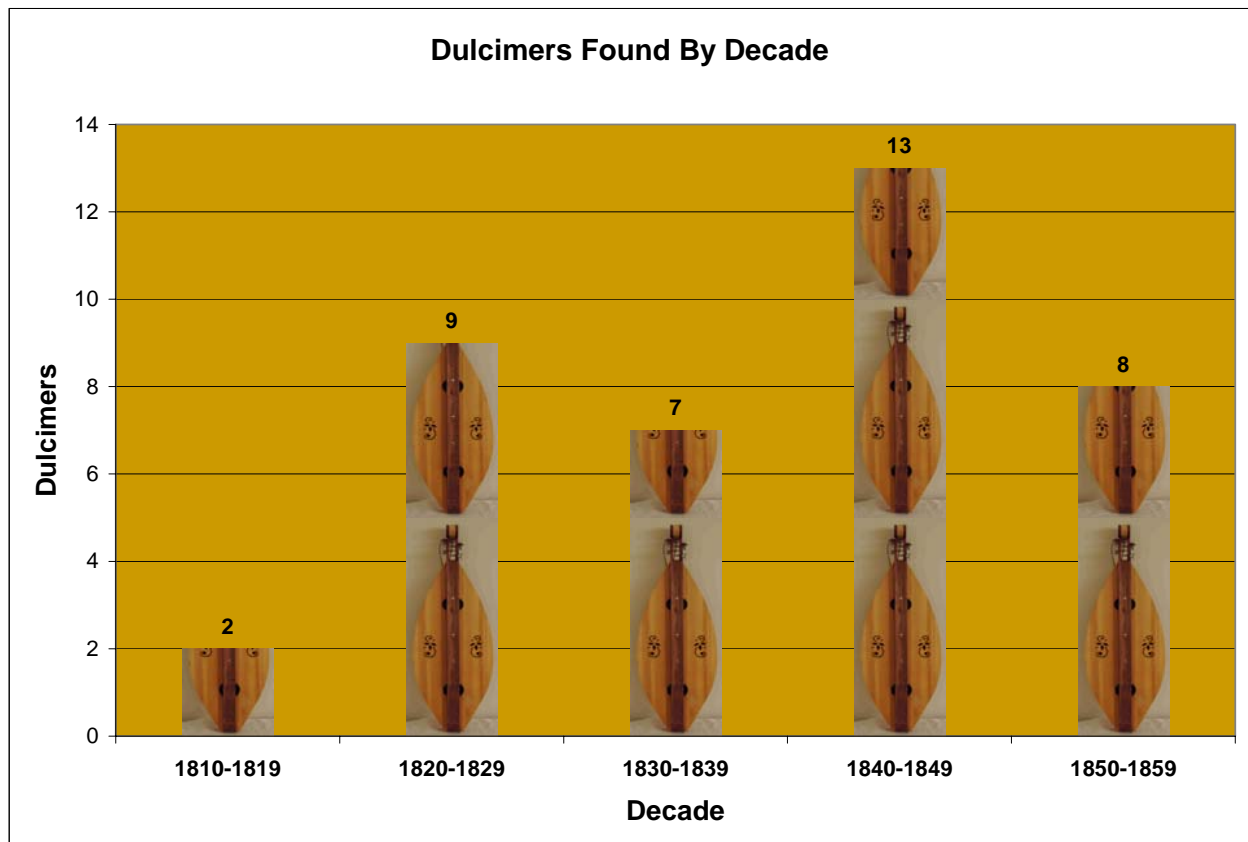
the inventories examined were in rural areas where perhaps the banjo had not yet gained popularity, especially in the earlier years researched.

Two items that caught my eye were the harmonican and the musical box. After reading some secondary sources about the Tennessee music box, a type of dulcimer, I began to wonder if perhaps the harmonican and the musical box listed in the inventories could be referring to the same instrument, especially the one found in 1848 in Wythe County. The person's inventory in which it was found had the last name of Buck. There are a couple of Buck families who owned dulcimers in the Wythe County area. The instruments were valued at the most common price that other dulcimers were listed at and they were found in the decades that had the most dulcimers. The music boxes most likely refer to the mechanical wind-up music box and the harmonican probably refers to an instrument like the modern harmonica. However, I felt that the possibility of other dulcimer-like instruments existing was worth mentioning.

Seven of the inventories examined that contained musical instruments have been identified as store inventories. Music-related items found in these particular inventories include flutes, fifes, violins, violin bows, a harmonican, and many fiddle strings, but no dulcimers. This is not overly surprising since the dulcimer was probably produced locally and only in pocket communities. Some miscellaneous music-related items that were found were fiddle/violin cases, tuning fork, strings, dulcimer wire, catgut, and piano covers and stools. One interesting note is that a dulcimer found in a Grayson County inventory was listed with a bow. (*See Breakdown by County, Grayson County, number 10*)

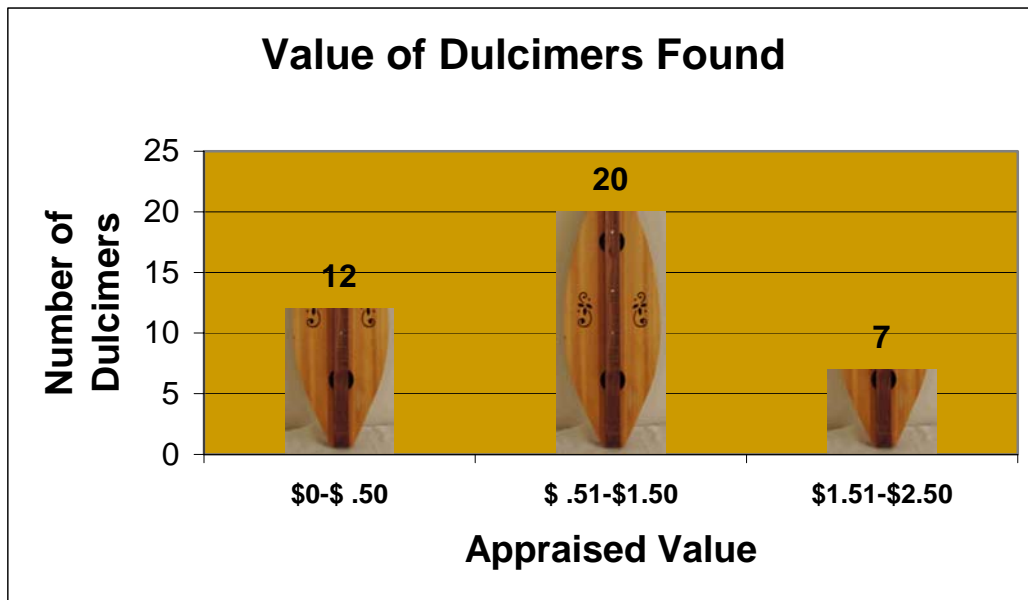
Dulcimers Found by Decade

The most dulcimers (13) were found in the decade spanning from 1840 to 1849. Naturally, as the decades rolled by, more and more folks were settling in the research area, so there was a greater chance that more instruments would be found since there were more potential instrument owners. Another thing to consider is that if the dulcimer did evolve around the 1800 time period, it would have taken some time for the popularity of the instrument to spread.



Value of Dulcimers Found

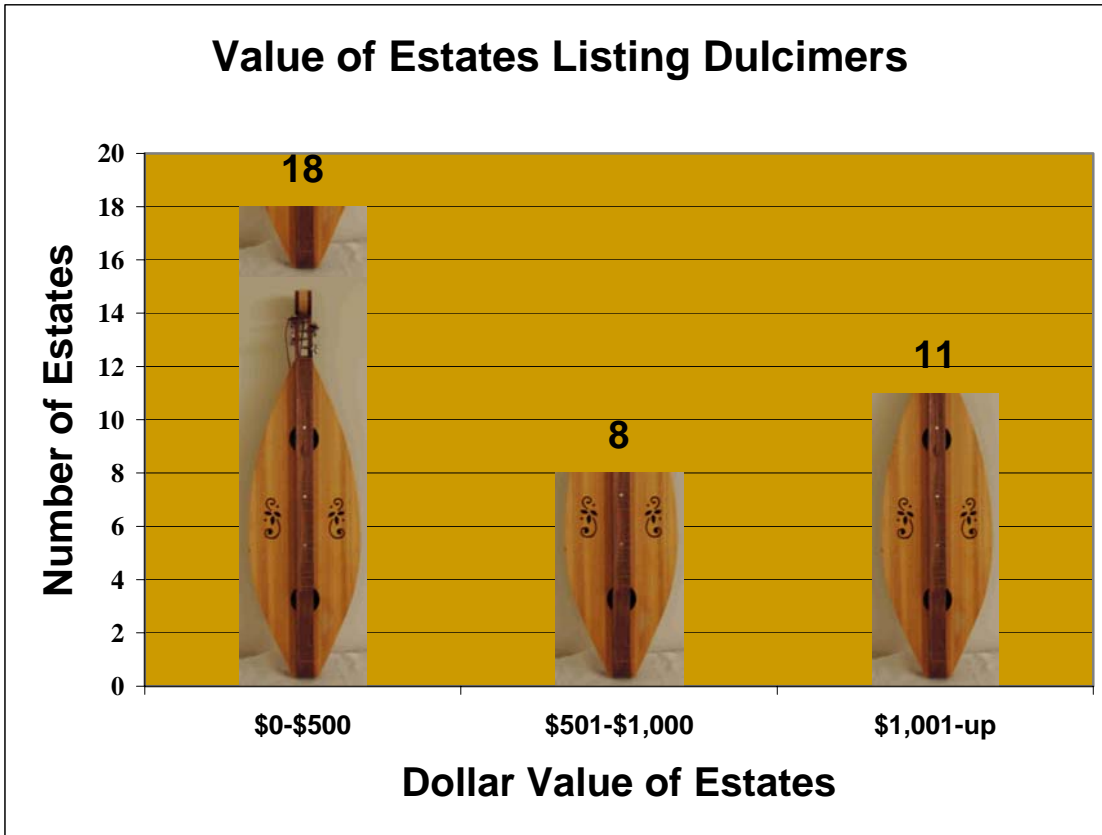
Although dulcimers were valued as low as 12-1/2¢ and as high as \$2.50, most fell into the 51¢ to \$1.50 range. Since dulcimers were homemade or made by someone in the community, a high monetary value may not have been placed upon them. In some instances, they may have been looked upon in the same manner as a butter churn, wash tub, or some other household implement that was not highly valued by the estate appraisers. In several of the inventories, the widow or other family member purchased the dulcimer from the estate. The appraised value of the dulcimer and or other items may have been kept low on purpose so that the remaining family members could purchase them at a reasonable price.



As a comparison to the dulcimer values in Virginia, three dulcimers found in Pulaski County, Kentucky, from 1825 to 1842 were valued at 50¢, \$1.00, and \$3.00 and they were probably referring to the Appalachian dulcimer rather than the hammered dulcimer (Gifford, p. 244). The prices of the instruments in Kentucky are comparable to the ones found in Virginia. Based on Gifford's statement and also upon the tradition of the Appalachian dulcimer in the research region, I do believe that the instruments found are referring to the Appalachian, not the hammered, dulcimer.

Economic Class of Personal Estates Containing Dulcimers

The 39 owners of dulcimers were broken down into three economic groups based on the appraised value of their estates. The least valuable estate was listed at \$33.34; the most valuable was \$5,865.50.



Most of the persons who owned dulcimers were not extremely “wealthy.” Several were important members of their community and carried quite a bit of clout, but they would not be considered wealthy outside of their immediate locality. As you can see by the above graph, about half of the persons owning dulcimers fell into the category of estates valued at \$500 and under. Even the “well to do”—those with estates worth more than \$1,000—were still not extremely wealthy when compared with other families who were in more settled areas of Virginia during the period researched.

The numbers indicate that most of the persons who owned dulcimers could be classified as being middle or lower class. Many of the wealthier families in the research area owned such instruments as the piano and the pianoforte. The dulcimer was probably a locally made instrument and was perhaps not considered to be as “refined” in an upper-class setting as the piano would have been.

Ethnic Groups

Previous research suggests that perhaps the inventors of the dulcimer were of German descent since the dulcimer is based on the scheitholt. Other places I have read that the Scots-Irish wanted the music of the scheitholt to be louder so the sound would not get lost when it was played with other instruments, thus the fretboard was mounted on top of the soundbox to generate more volume. Regardless of which theory you may prefer, the following information is what I discovered when researching the family backgrounds of the dulcimer owners found in the inventories and appraisements.

In a period of 60 years (1715-75), more than a quarter of a million people moved from the borderlands of north Britain and northern Ireland to the American backcountry. Many think of this migration in ethnic terms and call it Scots-Irish or Celtic. These labels fit some emigrants but not all or even most of them. Many came not from Ireland or Scotland but from the north of England. In many ways, however, they shared a common culture, the product of a distinctive region that might be called the borderlands of north Britain (Fischer, p. 119).

There were considerably more dulcimer owners whose ancestors came from the British Isles in the counties researched *east* of the Blue Ridge. The total number was 11. The number of German descent dulcimer owners was only two.

The numbers change significantly when the records are examined for dulcimer owners *west* of the Blue Ridge. The number of both German and British descent owners was 13 each. One of the reasons for the difference from east to west is probably because the mainstream of German migration was moving west of the Blue Ridge. More Germans tended to cross the mountains than settle on the eastern slopes. The lands east of the mountains were indeed alien to most Germans (Wust, p. 100).

Wythe County received the largest number of Germans of any county south of Augusta County. The Germans tended to settle close to one another in the western section of the county. Their farms extended along upper Reed Creek for about a dozen miles from Wytheville into the narrow Crawfish Valley. The Rural Retreat area between Brushy Mountain and Cripple Creek was likewise heavily settled by Germans. Their third center of settlement was in the upper valley of Cripple Creek and its tributary runs (Wust, p. 101). Prior to the American Revolution, as many as 75 German families settled in this area (Wust, p. 68). This is also where the largest concentration of dulcimers was found. The dulcimer-owning families in this area were Yearian, Huddle, Buck, Stanger, Wampler, Spangler, and Earhard. Quite a few of the Germans in this area came from Germany originally, then settled in Pennsylvania, moved to Rowan County, North Carolina, and then into Wythe. John Stanger, who came from Germany to Charleston, South Carolina, to Rowan then to Wythe seems to be the major connection for all of the interrelationships among dulcimer owners in this county. (*See Stanger Family Chart in the appendix and the breakdown by county on pages 12-20.*)

The original Wythe settlement overflowed early beyond the present county lines to the south, west, and north (Wust, p. 102). Some of the German farmers headed south to the Elk Creek area of Grayson County. This area was another pocket of dulcimer owners. The families of Connoy or Canoy, Pool, Fielder, Hackler, Osborn, and Parsons were found in this area. The Elk Creek region in Grayson and the area in Wythe where there were so many dulcimer owners covers an area that is only 24 miles from north to south and 12 miles east to west, or 288 square miles. Some of the first settlers of Bland County were the Germans coming out of Wythe. (Bland County was not included in this research project, although it would be interesting to see if the Germans who moved into the area were dulcimer owners.) There were other German communities on Walker and Kimberling Creeks, which is where I found a couple of dulcimer owners—Kegley and Hearn.

In the area east of the Blue Ridge there is a grouping of dulcimer owners in the general area of Rocky Mount. In an area that is approximately 22 miles by seven miles (154 square miles) there were five dulcimer owners. The majority of these folks were of British descent. I did not find any family connections between these owners, but there were several persons who just seem to vanish from all records other than their inventories, so determining some things about these persons was all but impossible.

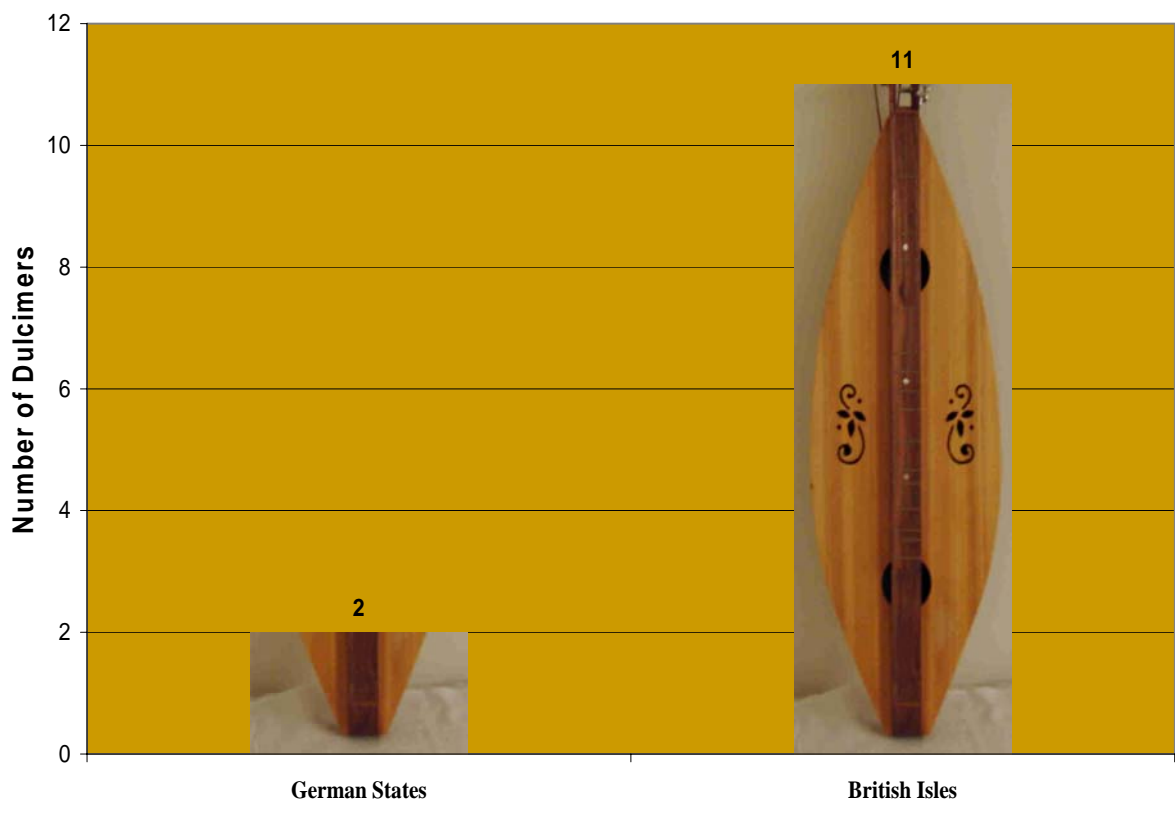
In the middle section—Patrick, modern-day Carroll, and Montgomery—there was another grouping covering an area of approximately 24 miles by 12 miles (288 square miles). These folks were all of British descent with the exception of one German that was from Wythe County (modern-day Montgomery) who lived at least 25 miles from any other dulcimer owner that was found. I did not find any interrelationships among these folks.

Overall, there were 24 dulcimers owned by people who were of British descent and 15 of German. (British descent includes England—17, Wales—3, Ireland—3, Scotland—1. German includes Germany—6, Bavaria—4, Kircheim Germany—2, Switzerland—2, Prussia—1). The western area of research (Wythe and Grayson) seems to be split equally between German and British. The British and German who owned dulcimers lived in fairly close proximity to each other, which could account for the equal numbers. The center section (modern-day Carroll, Patrick, Montgomery) and the eastern section (Botetourt, Bedford, Franklin) were predominately British.

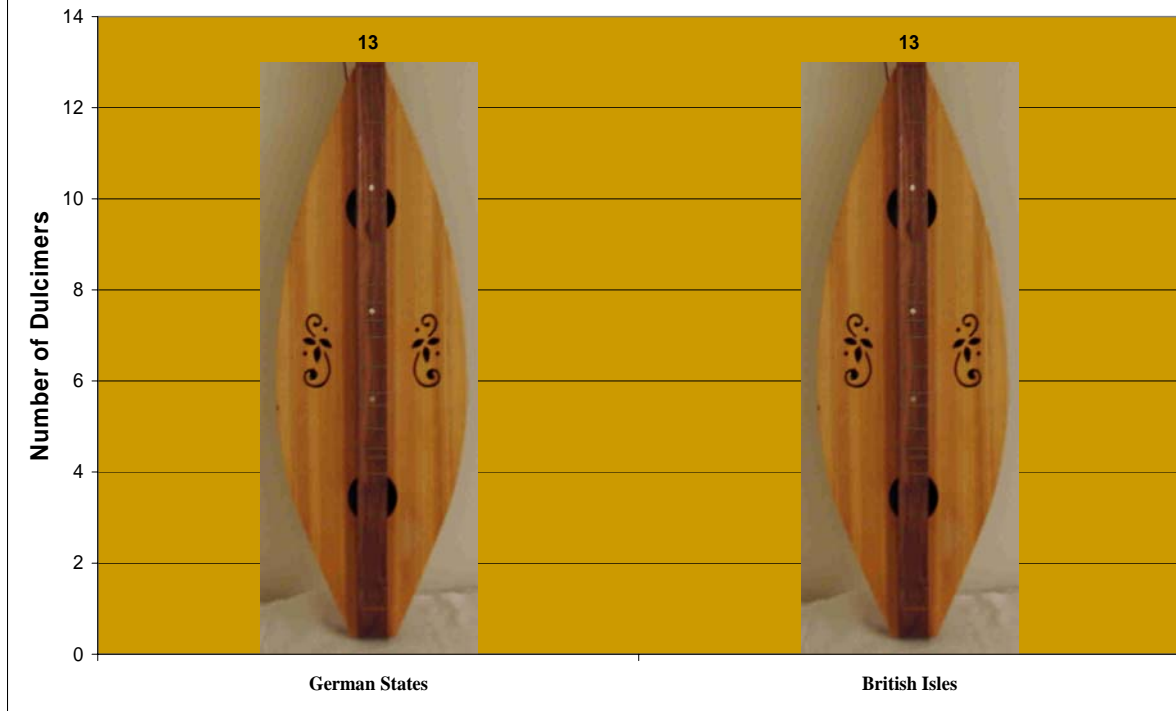
Ethnic Origin of Dulcimer Owners



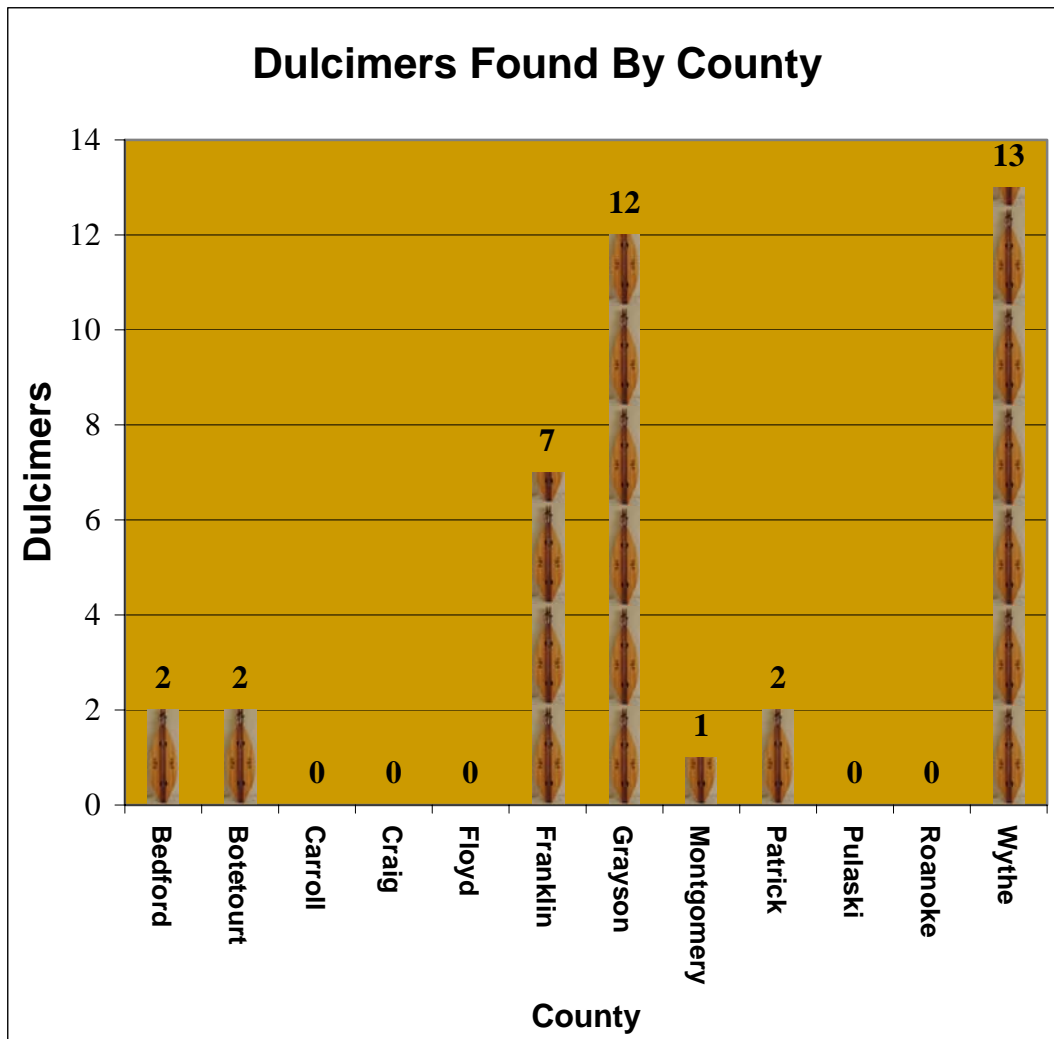
Ethnic Origin of Dulcimer Owners East of the Blue Ridge



Ethnic Origin of Dulcimer Owners West of the Blue Ridge



Dulcimers by County



I suspected that I would find more dulcimers the farther west I looked based on research conducted by L. Allen Smith and Ralph Lee Smith. This turned out to be the case with Grayson and Wythe counties having more than anywhere else. I expected to find that Carroll and Floyd County were dulcimer pockets, but none were found in these two counties. I was especially looking for any records for John Scales since L. Allen Smith had mentioned him (Smith, p. 46) as the maker of an 1832 dulcimer in Floyd County. Smith stated that a search through the Floyd and Montgomery County records did not reveal any information about John Scales. While I was examining the records in Floyd County, I could not locate him either. A couple of weeks later, I was researching the records in Patrick County. In the 1850 census, John Scales turned up as living in the western part of Patrick County in the Ararat area near the North Carolina line. He was 42 years old and his occupation was listed as a harness maker. He was married to Judith and they had eight children. This leaves a puzzle as to why he carved “Floyd County”

into the dulcimer he built in 1832 when he lived in Patrick County. Perhaps it is because the section of Patrick County that he lived in was approximately 10 miles from the Patrick/Floyd County line. Perhaps he owned some land in Floyd County. Something else to consider is that Floyd County was formed from Montgomery County in 1831. Could the dulcimer that he built be some sort of commemorative item for the formation of Floyd County? We may never know.

When planning this research, it was speculated that the trail of the dulcimer might have followed the path of the Great Wagon Road/Wilderness Road into Roanoke, Montgomery, Pulaski, and then into Grayson and Wythe. Thinking along these lines, it was a bit surprising when only two dulcimers were found in Botetourt County, none in Roanoke County, and only one in Montgomery. After completing the primary research, it was found that the areas with dulcimers did not follow the Wagon/Wilderness Roads except in Grayson and Wythe Counties.

The trail of the dulcimer appeared in southern Bedford County, then continued in a southeasterly direction to the Rocky Mount area of Franklin, then headed southwest into southern Patrick County, then west and northwest into Grayson and Wythe. Of course, the areas in Wythe and Grayson are on the Wilderness Road, but the ones located in other counties are a fair distance from the Road.

Could it be that there were dulcimer owners along the Great Wagon Road that just did not have their estates inventoried? Were the families of the dulcimer owners taking the dulcimers before the estate was inventoried? Did they just look at the dulcimer as a common item not worth being inventoried? Unless existent dulcimers can be found that are tied to a particular place or family, these questions may never be answered.

Most of the existent dulcimers that have been found by researchers Ralph Lee Smith and L. Allen Smith in the counties that I researched cannot be tied to any of the persons who I found who owned dulcimers. Ralph Lee Smith mentioned one dulcimer owner on page 38 of his book entitled The Story of the Dulcimer. The dulcimer, which was owned by Celia and Rosamond Poole, could possibly be the same family as one that was located in Wythe and Grayson Counties when searching the inventories. (*See number 5 in Wythe County and number 2 in Grayson.*) By looking at examples like the extended family of John Stanger in Wythe County (*see family chart in Appendix*), one can see that dulcimers were oftentimes passed from one generation to the next. There are several other instances of this that were found in my research.

Information On Each Dulcimer Found by County

Bedford County—Two dulcimers were found.

1. The earliest dulcimer was found in the 1818 estate of Obediah HOGAN. Obediah was born in 1767 and died in 1818 in Bedford County. His wife was Margaret Mitchell. He lived near Crab Orchard Creek near Huddleston. His ancestors were from Ireland (north-east Thomond) (Fink, p. 1). His estate was valued at \$1,525.80. The dulcimer in his estate was valued at \$2.50 and was spelled “dulcimer”.
2. Another dulcimer was found in the estate of Allen MARSHALL in 1840. It would appear that his family probably came from Wales to Maryland to Virginia. His estate was valued at \$408.78. The dulcimer was priced at \$1.50 and was spelled “dulcimer”.
The dulcimer was purchased by James L. WILLIAMSON, who was born in 1815 and died in 1876 in Bedford County. He was married to Hester Ann Layne in Botetourt County. His family has been traced back to Rappahannock or Norfolk County, Virginia (Austin, p. 26-27).

Botetourt County—Two dulcimers were found.

- 1.&2. Two dulcimers were found in the 1829 estate of Jeremiah LEDBETTER. Jeremiah was born in Botetourt County in 1795 and died in 1829. He was married to Jane Crawford. His great, great, great, great grandfather came from Durham, England. His estate was valued at \$757.14. The reference was spelled “dulcimer” and the two together were valued at \$1.00.

Carroll County—No dulcimers were found.

Craig County—No dulcimers were found.

Floyd County—No dulcimers were found.

Franklin County—Seven dulcimers were found.

1. One dulcimer was found in the 1818 estate of Josiah HARRISON. He was born about 1798 in Franklin County. His family was most likely from England. His estate was valued at \$2,310.33. The dulcimer was valued at \$1.00 and was spelled “dulcimore”.
2. One was found in the 1830 estate of Fleming W. SAUNDERS. By 1823, Fleming and his brothers, Samuel and Peter Saunders, owned the Washington Iron Works (Salmon, p. 112). His family most likely came from Ireland. His estate was valued at \$45.00. The dulcimer was valued at \$1.00 and was spelled “dulcimer”.

3. One was found in the 1845 estate of Daniel PRILLAMAN. He was born in Henry County, Virginia, in 1791. His family lived in the area of Nicholas Creek (Wingfield, p. 196). Other Prillamans in the area were from Germany. His estate was valued at \$156.77. His dulcimer was valued at 50¢ and was spelled “dulcimmer”. (*see number 7, probable relation*)
The dulcimer was bought by P. T. JAMES. No further information was found on James.
- 4.&5. Two dulcimers were found in the 1848 estate of Isreal FRALIN. His estate was valued at \$249.12. The dulcimers were valued at 12¢ and were listed as “two dulcimers without strings”. Fralin was probably of English descent. No other information was found on Isreal Fralin.
6. One dulcimer was found in the 1853 estate of Andy S. HOLLAND. His estate was valued at \$5,865.50. The dulcimer was valued at \$1.00 and was spelled “dulcimore”. Other Hollands came from England. No other information was found on Andy S. Holland.
7. One dulcimer was found in the 1853 estate of John PRILLAMAN. He was born in Virginia in 1838. His father was Samuel J. Prillaman. Other Prillamans in the area were from Germany. His estate was valued at \$3,820.19. His dulcimer was valued at 75¢ and spelled “dulcimer”. (*See number 3, probable relation*)
His dulcimer was sold to Stephen TURNER. No further information was found for Stephen Turner.

Grayson County--12 dulcimers were found.

1. One dulcimer was found in the 1826 estate of Isaac MORRIS. He was born in Wayne County, North Carolina. His father and grandfather were from Pasquotank County, North Carolina, his great grandfather was born in Virginia, and his great, great grandfather was from Wales. In his inventory, it stated that the dulcimer was for his widow. He was buried in the Fancy Gap area of Carroll County (1815 Real Estate Assessments). His home was on the Ward’s Gap Road. His estate was valued at \$370.23. The dulcimer was valued at 96¢ and was spelled “dulcimer”.
2. One was in the 1829 estate of John POOL. He was born in Rowan County, North Carolina. He lived in the Elk Creek area (1815 Land Tax List–Alderman & Kegley, Vol. III, p. 98). Other Pools in the area were from England. His estate was valued at \$499.31. The dulcimer was valued at \$1.00 and was spelled “dulcimer” (*see number 5, Wythe County, probable relative*).
3. One was found in the 1829 estate of Jacob CANNOY. He was born in Wythe County about 1787. (*He is the brother of John, see number 5*) His father, Barney Kanawha, was from Anson County, North Carolina, and his ancestors were from Bavaria, Germany. His home place was in the Elk Creek area (Wingate, p. 70). His estate was valued at \$1,211.80. His dulcimer was valued at \$1.00 and was

spelled “dulcimore”.

4. One was found in the 1829 estate of Samuel SCHOOLEY. He was born in Hunterdon, New Jersey, in 1743. He died in New Carroll, Grayson County on Pine Creek (1815 Real Estate Assessments). His father was from New Jersey and his ancestors were from the Parish of Aston, England. His wife was Elizabeth Wilson. His estate was valued at \$499.85. His dulcimer was valued at \$1.00 and was spelled “dulcimore”.
5. One was found in the 1836 estate of Conrad HACKLER. He was born in Pennsylvania about 1782. His father was from Prussia (1815 Tax List–Alderman). His estate was valued at \$690.25. His dulcimer was valued at 80¢ and was spelled “dulcimore”.
His dulcimer was bought by John CANOY. He was born in Grayson County, Virginia. Two of his marriages were to Bourne women. He lived in the Elk Creek area. (*Brother of Jacob Cannoy, see number 3*)
6. One dulcimer was found in the 1836 estate of Irvin (Erwin, Irwin) MONTGOMERY. He was born in the 1780s in North Carolina. His father came from Guilford County, North Carolina. Part of his land was in present-day Carroll County in the Burks Fork area on Big Reed Island (Alderman, p. 56-57). Samuel Montgomery was his son. His ancestors more than likely came from Ireland, then settled in Pennsylvania before arriving in Grayson County. His estate was valued at \$452.14. His dulcimer was valued at \$1.00 and was spelled “dulcimore”.
His dulcimer was bought by his son, Samuel MONTGOMERY (Alderman, p. 56-57).
7. One dulcimer was found in the 1838 estate of Jason FARMER. His estate was valued at \$4,024.30. His dulcimer was valued at \$1.25 and was spelled “dulcimore”. His ancestors more than likely came from England. No further information has been found on Jason FARMER.
8. One dulcimer was found in the 1844 estate of Andrew OSBORN. He was born in Grayson County, Virginia, in 1799. Other Osborns in the area were from England. He lived between Bridle and Saddle Creeks. His estate was valued at \$485.17-1/2. His dulcimer was valued at 12-1/2¢ and was spelled “dulcimer”.
W. B. PARSONS bought his dulcimer. Parsons lived on Wilson Creek.
9. One dulcimer was found in the 1847 estate of Isaac SPENCER. Other Spencers in the area were from England (1815 Tax List–Alderman). His estate was valued at \$610.25. His dulcimer was valued at \$1.00 and was spelled “dulcimore”.
His dulcimer was bought by Joseph SPENCER. No information has been found on him, but I suspect that Joseph is either a son or brother.
10. One dulcimer was found in the 1849 estate of Jacob CONNOY. His ancestors were from Bavaria, Germany. His estate was valued at \$408.03. His dulcimer

was valued at \$1.00 and listed as “dulcimore & bow”.

His dulcimer was bought by George Washington CONNOY (son of Jacob). He lived in the Elk Creek area. *(See numbers 3 & 5 for relatives)*

11. One dulcimer was found in the 1851 estate of Samuel K. FIELDER. He was born about 1824 in Grayson County and was married to Mary Moore “Polly” Bourne. His ancestors were probably from Switzerland. His father was from Prince Edward County, Virginia. His estate was valued at \$329.09. His dulcimer was valued at \$2.00 and spelled “dulcimore”.
His dulcimer was bought by Polly FIELDER. I would assume that she was a daughter or wife.
12. One dulcimer was found in the 1852 estate of Nancy BOBBETT. She was born in Grayson County and her family was more than likely from Wales. She lived on Island Creek (present-day Carroll County). Her estate was valued at \$458.63. Her dulcimer was valued at 25¢ and was spelled “dulcimer”.

Montgomery County--One dulcimer was found.

1. One dulcimer was in the 1847 estate of John WALL who was born in 1821 in Montgomery County and died in 1847. His wife was Mary J. His estate was valued at \$328.42. The dulcimer was valued at 50¢ and was spelled “dulcimore”. The dulcimer was bought by his brother, Daniel WALL, who was born in 1813 in Montgomery. I suspect that this family was of English origin.

Roanoke County—No dulcimers were found.

Patrick County—Two dulcimers were found.

1. One dulcimer was in the 1839 estate of Joshua HAYNES. He was born in 1769 and died in 1838. His wife was Margaret Smith and/or Elizabeth Scott. His great, great grandfather came from Northampshire, England, and then his ancestors moved from New Jersey to Culpeper County to Frederick County to Patrick County. He was a member of the Quaker church. His estate was valued at \$634.45. The dulcimer was valued at \$2.00 and was spelled “dulcimer”. He lived in the Ararat area (Patrick Co. Heritage Book, pp. 218, 284).
2. One was in the 1854 estate of John MCKINSEY. He was probably born about 1821 in Franklin County. The McKenzie family in Patrick County originally came from Glasgow, Scotland to Giles County, then Mercer County, West Virginia, to Patrick County. His estate was valued at \$33.34. The dulcimer was valued at 26¢ and was spelled “dulcimer”. He lived in the Buffalo Ridge section (modern-day Route #8) (Patrick Co. Heritage Book, p. 275).
His dulcimer was bought by J. R. CLARK. His family was originally from England. He lived in the Stuart area (Pedigo, p. 105)

Pulaski County—No dulcimers were found.

Wythe County--13 dulcimers were found.

1. One dulcimer was found in the 1826 estate of Frederick COLLUP. (Other spellings of the name are Collup, Kohlhepp, Cohlhepp.) He was born in Wythe County in 1772. He was married to Nancy Beard. His children attended a Lutheran school. Other Collups in Virginia from this time period were from Germany. His estate was valued at \$3,508.37. His dulcimer was valued at \$2.50 and was spelled “dulcimer”.
2. One dulcimer was found in the 1828 estate of Peter HUDDLE. (Early spellings of the name are Hottel or Hoddel.) He was born in 1804 in Wythe County and he died in the Cripple Creek area. His family came from Switzerland to Pennsylvania and to northern Virginia prior to 1750 (Glimpses, p. 21-22). He moved to Wythe in the 1790s and owned 347 acres on Black Lick (Glimpses, pp. 21-22). His estate was valued at \$511.02. His dulcimer was valued at \$1.50 and was spelled “dulcimore”. His brother was David Huddle (*see number 13*).
3. One dulcimer was found in the 1829 estate of Edwin BREEDING. He was born in Virginia about 1785. His great grandfather was from England. His estate was valued at \$1,039.34. His dulcimer was valued at \$2.50 and was spelled “dulcimere”.
4. One dulcimer was found in the 1837 estate of John HEARN. He was born in Montgomery County, North Carolina, about 1760. He lived on Walkers Creek (Kegley, Vol. III, p. 678). Other Hearnings in the area were from England. His estate was valued at \$2,922.98 1/4. His dulcimer was valued at \$2.00 and spelled “dulcimer”.
5. One dulcimer was found in the 1836 estate of Elinor POOL. Her estate was valued at \$264.61 1/2. Her dulcimer was valued at 41¢ and was spelled “dulcimer” (*see number 2, Grayson Co., probable relation*). Family from England.
The dulcimer was bought by Abram BUCK. He was born in Wythe Co. in 1798. The Bucks came from Germany to Pennsylvania to Virginia. The Bucks were potters and they lived in the Black Lick Community (Glimpses, p. 92). (*See number 7, probable relation*)
6. One dulcimer was found in the 1844 estate of George KEGLEY. He was born in Wythe County in 1796. His family came from Germany. He lived near the town of Wytheville in the Kimberling area (Glimpses, p. 39). His estate was valued at \$355.01 3/4. His dulcimer was valued at 12-1/2¢ and was spelled “dulsemmer”. His dulcimer was bought by Graniel WALTERS. No information is available on Walters.

7. One dulcimer was found in the 1843 estate of Christian PHILLIPPI. He was born in Wythe County in 1777. His family was from Germany. They lived in the Tom's Creek (Thom's Creek) area near the Blacksburg section of the county (Glimpses, p. 39). This area of the county did have an existing Lutheran congregation, so perhaps this was one of the churches served by John STANGER (Wust, p. 100). His estate was valued at \$277.00. His dulcimer was valued at \$1.50 and was spelled "dulcimner". (*see number 10, probable relation*). His dulcimer was bought by Felise BUCK. No other information was found on Buck. (*See number 5, probable relation*).
8. One dulcimer was found in the 1848 estate of Jacob SPANGLER. He was born in Wythe Co. in 1789 in the Cripple Creek area. His family came from Bavaria, Germany to Pennsylvania to Wythe. He was married to Sally Stanger. His children attended a Lutheran school. His estate was valued at \$763.76. His dulcimer was valued at \$1.00 and spelled "dulcimer". (*see number 11 for father of Jacob*) (*See number 9, Sally Stanger daughter of John Stanger*)
9. One dulcimer was found in the 1848 estate of John STANGER. He was born in Kirchem, Germany in 1765. He arrived in Charleston, SC, in 1787 then moved to Rowan County, North Carolina, then appeared in the Cripple Creek community in Wythe Co., Virginia, by 1790 as a Lutheran minister. He was married to Anna Magdalena Wampler. He served four charges, but he concentrated his work on Zion Church on Cripple Creek. His name is connected with many public endeavors in the county. For a while, he was a magistrate. In 1824, he relinquished the pastorate altogether in favor of Democratic politics. Stanger held seats in the House of Delegates almost uninterruptedly from 1827 to 1840 (Wust, pp. 118-119). Others who lived in his community were Spangler, Wetzel, Yonce, Collepp, Earhart, and Wampler (Kegley, Vol. III, pp. 524-525). His children are: Salome "Sally" Spangler (married to Jacob Spengler) (*see number 8*), Magdalena "Polly" Earhard (married to John Earhard) (*see number 13*), Theresia (Theresa) Brown (married to Daniel Brown), John (married to Caty Brownlow & Ann Thomas), Henry, Sophia Nye (married to John P. Nye), Sylvester (*see number 12*), Jacob, and Catharine (Kegley, Vol. III, p. 525-526). His estate was valued at \$4,277.07. His dulcimer was valued at \$1.50 and spelled "dulcimer". His son, Sylvester STANGER bought his dulcimer. He was born in Wythe County. His daughter was Malvina Stanger who married Ephraim Wampler. (*See number 12*) (*See Appendix C and D*)
10. One dulcimer was found in the 1849 estate of Christian ARNEY. He was married to Mary Phillippi (*see number 7*). His family came from England to Pennsylvania, to North Carolina to Virginia. His estate was valued at \$958.25. His dulcimer was valued at \$4.00 (this value includes some other items). The spelling was "dulcemore".
11. One dulcimer was found in the 1853 estate of John SPANGLER. He was born in Wythe County, Virginia. He was the son of Jacob Spangler (*see number 8*). He

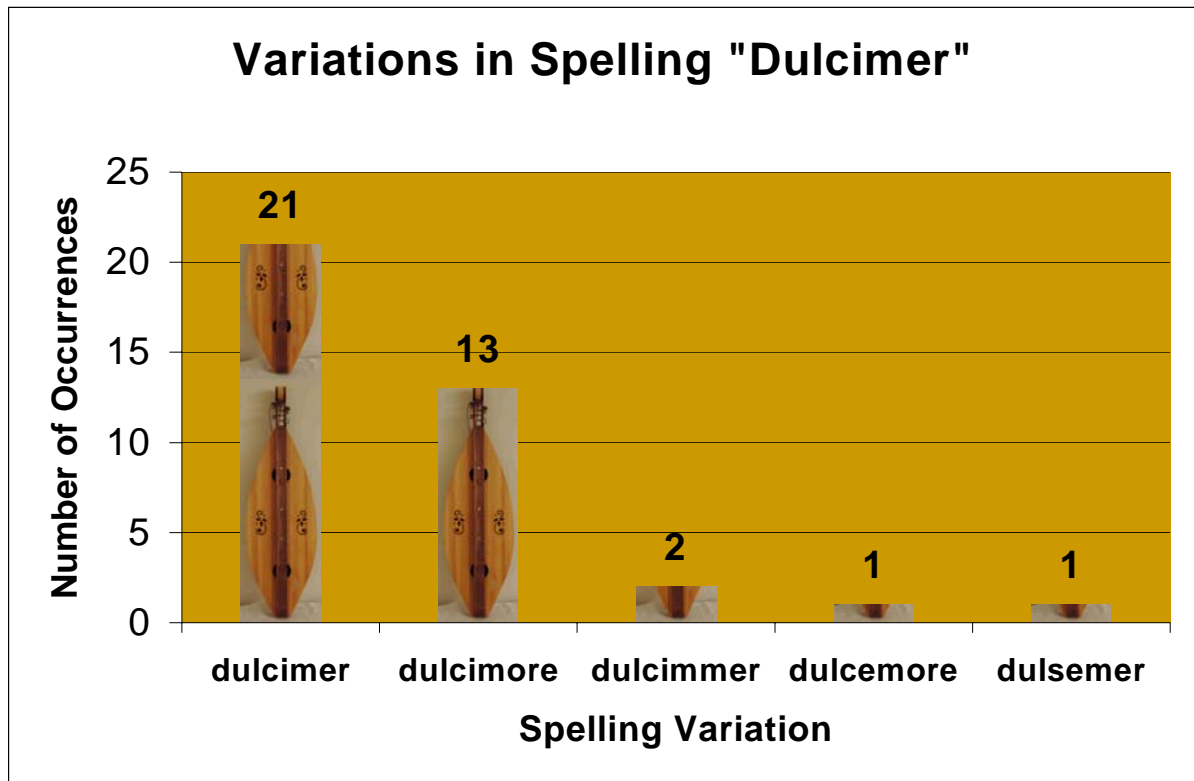
was married to Catherine Harner. His family is from Bavaria. His children attended a Lutheran school. His estate was valued at \$510.72. His dulcimer was valued at \$1.95 and was spelled "dulcimore".

His dulcimer was bought by George WILSON. Wilson may have been from Scotland. No further information was found.

12. One dulcimer was found in the 1854 estate of Sylvester STANGER. (He is the son of John Stanger *(see number 9)*). His father came from Kircheim, Germany. He was a potter and suffered from "lead cholic" (Glimpses, p. 92). He lived in the Black Lick Community. His daughter was Malvina Stanger (Kegley, Vol. III, p. 528). His estate was valued at \$374.26. His dulcimer was valued at \$1.65. His dulcimer was bought by Harvey S. WAMPLER. Wampler lived in the Tom's Creek area near Blacksburg section of community. The Wampplers were German and they were potters (Glimpses, p. 39 & 92). His children attended a Lutheran school. Harvey's mother was Malvina Stanger and his father was Ephraim Wampler. He is the grandson of Sylvester Stanger.
13. One dulcimer was found in the 1854 estate of Jacob YEARIAN. His family originated in Germany then moved to Pennsylvania and then to Wythe. His wife was Letitia (Kegley, Vol. III, p. 804-806). His estate was valued at \$2,138.46. His dulcimer was valued at 40¢ and was spelled "dulcimer". His dulcimer was sold to John S. EARHARD, Jr. who was born in 1791 and died in 1859. He married Polly Stanger (*daughter of John Stanger see number 9*). His family came from Germany to Rockingham County to Montgomery County to the Cripple Creek area of Wythe County. His children attended a Lutheran school. His daughter, Theresa was the wife of Rufus Wampler. His daughter, Margaret P. was the wife of David Huddle (Kegley, Vol. III, pp. 415-418). (David Huddle is the brother of Peter Huddle *(see number 2)*).

Dulcimer Spelling Variations

When using primary sources from the nineteenth century, many different spellings of words will be found. Persons of the time would oftentimes spell things just as they sounded when spoken. I found six different spellings of the word “dulcimer”. There seems to be no rhyme or reason to the spelling either by area or ethnic group.



Summary

The primary purpose of this research was to find out how prevalent the Appalachian dulcimer was in the Roanoke-New River Valleys region based on the examination of primary documents such as inventories and appraisements. By far, the most common instrument found in the region was the fiddle with 103 being located. The next most popular instrument was the dulcimer at 39. The counties with the most dulcimers were Grayson and Wythe Counties with a combined total of 25. Most of the persons owning dulcimers lived in “pockets”. The three pockets that were identified were (1) an area in Grayson/Wythe Counties where many of the people were related, either by blood or marriage, or they were living in the same small community; (2) an area in the southern part of Patrick County extending into what is modern day Carroll County; and (3) an area located in the Rocky Mount region of Franklin County. How were these pockets related? How did the tradition of the dulcimer travel from one pocket to the other?

The connection between the Patrick County pocket and the one found in Grayson/Wythe Counties may lie in North Carolina. When people migrated from Pennsylvania down the Valley of Virginia in the eighteenth century, they split when they arrived at the Roanoke Gap. Some went west along the Wilderness Road and others went south into North Carolina (Mitchell, p. 463). Many of the folks in southern Patrick came from counties in North Carolina as did many of the folks in Wythe and Grayson. The clue tying the pockets together may lie in the records in some of the northern counties of North Carolina, which is beyond the scope of this research project. Perhaps the people that settled in North Carolina lived in the same community before they moved into Virginia.

Of the 39 dulcimers found, 24 belonged to people whose origins were in the British Isles. Fifteen were from the German states. East of the Blue Ridge, the majority of the dulcimer owners were British with only two being German. West of the Blue Ridge, the number is equal with 13 British and 13 German. Since current scholarly research seems to agree that the dulcimer evolved from the scheitholt, a German instrument, it may or may not be surprising that 15 of the dulcimers were owned by Germans. The statistical sampling that occurred in this research may have been too small to give an accurate picture of the ethnic background of dulcimer owners overall. Either the Germans may have been the ones that developed the dulcimer from the scheitholt and then the English made it their own. Or since 24 belonged to the English, they may have created the dulcimer and passed it on to the Germans. More research including a larger sampling may come closer to answering this question.

Most of the dulcimer owners were of average means belonging to the middle or lower class. Twenty-six of the 39 dulcimers found belonged to people whose estate was valued at less than \$1,000. The most dulcimers were found during the decade of 1840-1849. This could be because the population in these areas had increased so there were more people available to own the instrument, or it could be because if the dulcimer did evolve around the turn of the century, it would have taken some time for the tradition of the dulcimer to spread.

The number of dulcimers found would probably be greater if:

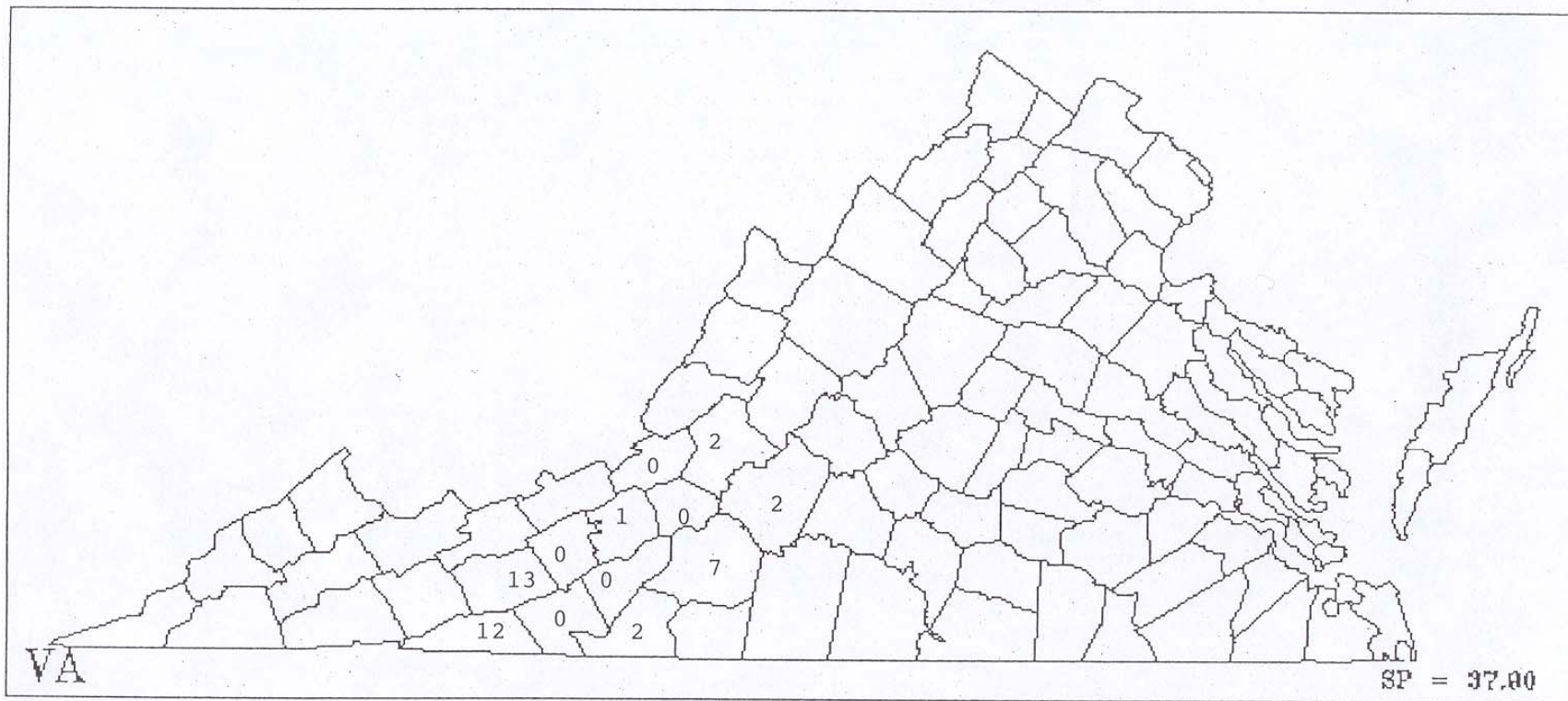
1. Everyone had an inventory of their estate conducted when they died
2. In many instances, the family members and friends would remove items before the appraisers took the inventory of the estate. Many dulcimers could have been removed before the inventory was taken.
3. A dulcimer may have been viewed as something of little value since it was a homemade item, so it may not have even been listed when the inventories were performed. Most dulcimers were valued between 51¢-\$1.50. When looking at the other instruments that were found, the fiddle/violin was valued between \$2.00-\$10.00.

Was the Roanoke-New River Valley area a traditional pocket for dulcimers? The conclusion would have to be yes. Since one of the pockets is located just east of the Roanoke Valley, another just to the south, and the other just to the west, I feel that the dulcimer was probably known in the Roanoke Valley, even though no dulcimers were found when the records in Roanoke County were searched. The New River Valley region in Grayson and Wythe Counties is where one of the largest pockets was found. Even today, the tradition is continued in that area where there are still quite a few builders and players.

While conducting this research, quite a few references were found on dulcimers in other counties outside of the scope of this project. It would be most interesting to expand the area covered by this research to include the counties of Rockbridge, Henry, Pittsylvania, Giles, Smyth, Tazewell, and Washington in Virginia and Ashe, Surry, Stokes, and Rockingham in North Carolina. Many of these counties are where the dulcimer owners originally came from or to which their children or neighbors migrated.

APPENDICES

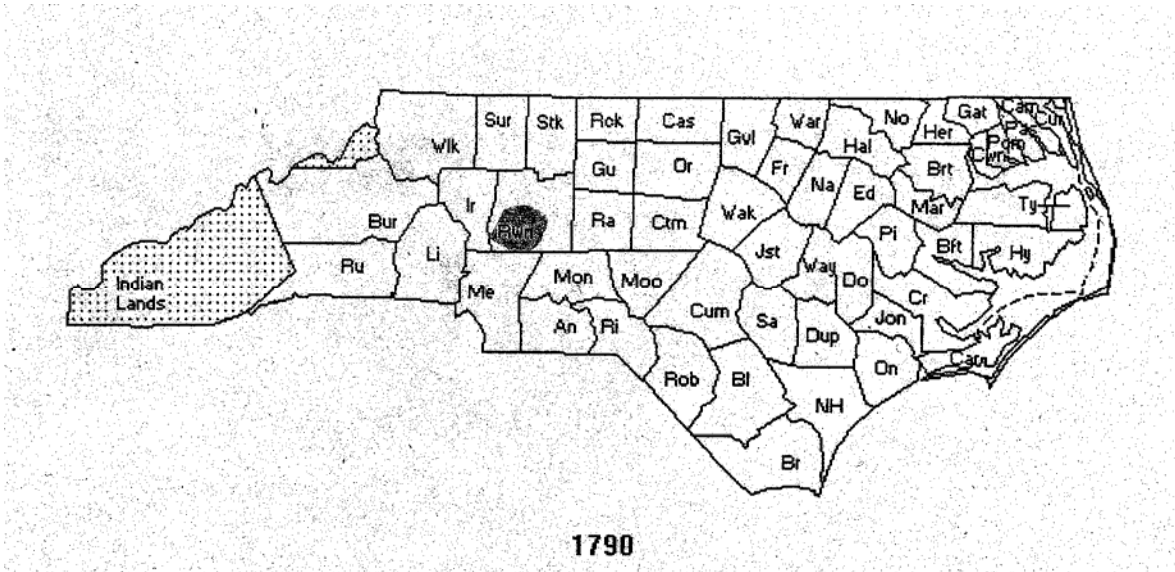
Appendix A: Map of Researched Counties



Bedford--2
Botetourt--2
Carroll--0
Craig--0
Floyd--0
Franklin--7

Grayson--12
Montgomery--1
Patrick--2
Pulaski--0
Roanoke--0
Wythe--13

Appendix B: North Carolina Counties—1790

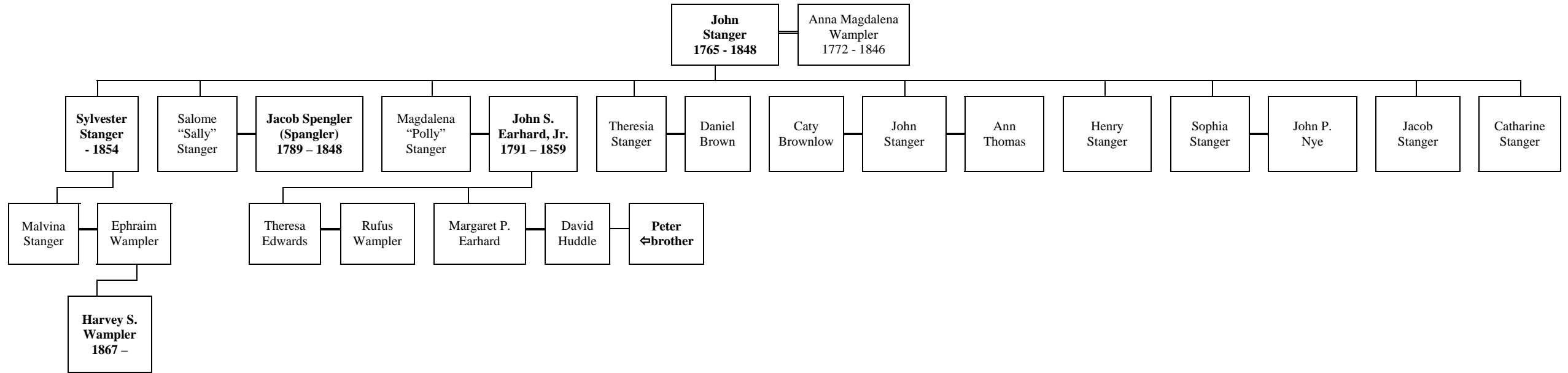


Appendix C: Photograph of John Stanger



The Reverend John Stanger, born in Germany June 10, 1765 died on October 14, 1848. On December 25, 1791 he married Anna Magdalena Wampler, daughter of Hans George Wampler, Sr. and Elizabeth Stephan (Steffy). They are buried in the Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Appendix D: Descendants of John Stanger



Highlighted individuals owned dulcimers.

Kinship of John Stanger

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship with John Stanger</u>	<u>Civil</u>	<u>Canon</u>
(Spangler), Jacob Spengler	Son-in-law		
Brown, Daniel	Son-in-law		
Brownlow, Caty	Daughter-in-law		
Earhard, John S., Jr.	Son-in-law		
Earhard, Margaret P.	Granddaughter	II	2
Earhard, Theresa	Granddaughter	II	2
Huddle, David	Husband of the granddaughter		
Nye, John P.	Son-in-law		
Stanger	Father		
Stanger, Catharine	Daughter	I	1
Stanger, Henry	Son	I	1
Stanger, John	Son	I	1
Stanger, John	Self		0
Stanger, Magdalena "Polly"	Daughter	I	1
Stanger, Malvina	Granddaughter	I	1
Stanger, Salome "Sally"	Daughter	II	2
Stanger, Sophia	Daughter	I	1
Stanger, Sylvester	Son	I	1
Stanger, Theresia	Daughter	I	1
Stephan, Elizabeth	Mother-in-law	I	1
Thomas, Ann	Daughter-in-law		
Wampler, Anna Magdalena	Wife		
Wampler, Ephraim	Husband of the granddaughter		
Wamper, Hans George	Father-in-law		
Wampler, Harvey S.	Great-grandson		
Wampler, Joseph	Brother-in-law	III	3
Wampler, Rufus	Husband of the granddaughter		
Huddle, Peter	Brother-in-law of granddaughter		

Descendants of John Stanger

Generation No. 1

1. JOHN² STANGER (STANGER¹) was born June 10, 1765 in Kircheim, Germany, and died 1848. He married ANNA MAGDALENA WAMPLER December 25, 1791, daughter of HANS WAMPLER and ELIZABETH STEPHAN. She was born 1772, and died 1846.

Notes for JOHN STANGER:
Owned a dulcimer.

Reverend John Stanger. He came to the United States from Germany, arriving in Charleston, SC, in October of 1787. By December, he had found a German congregation in Rowan County, North Carolina, where he remained until the spring of 1790 when he received a call from a German congregation in Wythe county. This may have happened because numerous others of the Cripple Creek community in Wythe were former residents of Rowan County. He began his school on December 1790 with Spraker and Gose children and probably those of Spangler, Wetzel, Yonce, Collepp, Earhart, and Wampler. (Kegley, Vol. III, P. 524-525).

The family lived in Cripple Creek.

He was very active in his community. He was a Justice of the Peace, Commission of the Revenue, Trustee of the Wythe Academy, member of the Masonic Lodge, sheriff, treasurer of School Commission, also in the House of Delegates. (Kegley, Vol. III, pp. 526-528).

Children of JOHN STANGER and ANNA WAMPLER are:

2.
 - i. SYLVESTER³ STANGER, b. Wythe County, Virginia; d. 1854.
 - ii. SALOME "SALLY" STANGER, m. JACOB SPENGLER (SPANGLER); b. 1789, Cripple Creek, Wythe County, Virginia; d. 1848.

Notes for JACOB SPENGLER (SPANGLER);
Jacob owned a dulcimer.

His great-grandfather was from Germany.

3.
 - iii. MAGDALENA "POLLY" STANGER.
 - iv. THERESIA STANGER, m. DANIEL BROWN.
 - v. THERESIA STANGER, m. CATY BROWNLOW; m. (2) ANN THOMAS.
 - vi. HENRY STANGER.
 - vii. SOPHIA STANGER, m. JOHN P. NYE .
 - viii. JACOB STANGER.
 - ix. CATHARINE STANGER.

Generation No. 2

2. SYLVESTER² STANGER (JOHN², STANGER¹) was born in Wythe County, Virginia, and died 1854.

Notes for SYLVESTER STANGER:

Sylvester owned a dulcimer.

Sylvester also owned an accordion.

Sylvester and his brother-in-law were potters. Both suffered from “lead cholic.” (Glimpses, p. 92). He lived in the Black Lick community in Wythe County.

Children of JOHN STANGER and ANNA WAMPLER are:

4. i. MALVINA⁴ STANGER.

3. MAGDALENA “POLLY”³ STANGER (JOHN², STANGER¹). She married JOHN S. EARHARD, JR. 1814, son of JOHN EARHART, SR. He was born September 25, 1791, and died June 25, 1859 in Wythe County, Virginia.

Notes for JOHN S. EARHARD, JR.:

John Earhard owned a dulcimer.

He lived on Cripple Creek in Wythe County, Virginia. He bought land in 1802 on Ingles Mill Creek, a branch of North Fork of Roanoke River, where Samuel and Sarah WILSON were then living.

Children of Magdalena STANGER and JOHN EARHARD are:

i. THERESA⁴ EARHARD, m. RUFUS WAMPLER

ii. MARGARET P. EARHARD, m. DAVID HUDDLE

4. MALVINA⁴ STANGER (SYLVESTER³, JOHN², STANGER¹) She married EPHRAIM WAMPLER.

Child of Malvina STANGER and EPHRAIM WAMPLER is:

i. HARVEY S.⁴ WAMPLER, b. 1867, Wythe County, Virginia.

Notes for HARVEY S. WAMPLER:

Harvey owned a dulcimer.

From Rural Retreat area.

The Wamplers were potters. (Glimpses, p. 92). Lived in Black Lick Community. The Wamplers were German-speaking in 1780s. (Glimpses, p. 39).

Descendants of Anna Magdalena Wampler

Generation No. 3

1. ANNA MAGDALENA² WAMPLER (HANS GEORGE¹) was born 1772, and died 1846. She married JOHN STANGER December 25, 1791, son of STANGER. He was born June 10, 1765 in Kircheim, Germany, and died 1848.

Notes for JOHN STANGER:
Owned a dulcimer.

Reverend John Stanger. He came to the United States from Germany, arriving in Charleston, SC, in October of 1787. By December, he had found a German congregation in Rowan County, North Carolina, where he remained until the spring of 1790 when he received a call from a German congregation in Wythe county. This may have happened because numerous others of the Cripple Creek community in Wythe were former residents of Rowan County. He began his school on December 1790 with Spraker and Gose children and probably those of Spangler, Wetzel, Yonce, Collepp, Earhart, and Wampler. (Kegley, Vol. III, P. 524-525).

The family lived in Cripple Creek.

He was very active in his community. He was a Justice of the Peace, Commission of the Revenue, Trustee of the Wythe Academy, member of the Masonic Lodge, sheriff, treasurer of School Commission, also in the House of Delegates. (Kegley, Vol. III, pp. 526-528).

Children of JOHN STANGER and ANNA WAMPLER are:

2.
 - i. SYLVESTER³ STANGER, b. Wythe County, Virginia; d. 1854.
 - ii. SALOME "SALLY" STANGER, m. JACOB SPENGLER (SPANGLER); b. 1789, Cripple Creek, Wythe County, Virginia; d. 1848.

Notes for JACOB SPENGLER (SPANGLER);
Jacob owned a dulcimer.

His great-grandfather was from Germany.

3.
 - iii. MAGDALENA "POLLY" STANGER.
 - iv. THERESIA STANGER, m. DANIEL BROWN.
 - v. THERESIA STANGER, m. CATY BROWNLOW; m. (2) ANN THOMAS.
 - vi. HENRY STANGER.
 - vii. SOPHIA STANGER, m. JOHN P. NYE .
 - viii. JACOB STANGER.
 - ix. CATHARINE STANGER.

Generation No. 4

2. SYLVESTER² STANGER (JOHN², STANGER¹) was born in Wythe County, Virginia, and died 1854.

Notes for SYLVESTER STANGER:

Sylvester owned a dulcimer.

Sylvester also owned an accordion.

Sylvester and his brother-in-law were potters. Both suffered from “lead cholic.” (Glimpses, p. 92). He lived in the Black Lick community in Wythe County.

Children of JOHN STANGER and ANNA WAMPLER are:

4. i. MALVINA⁴ STANGER.

3. MAGDALENA “POLLY”³ STANGER (JOHN², STANGER¹). She married JOHN S. EARHARD, JR. 1814, son of JOHN EARHART, SR. He was born September 25, 1791, and died June 25, 1859 in Wythe County, Virginia.

Notes for JOHN S. EARHARD, JR.:

John Earhard owned a dulcimer.

He lived on Cripple Creek in Wythe County, Virginia. He bought land in 1802 on Ingles Mill Creek, a branch of North Fork of Roanoke River, where Samuel and Sarah WILSON were then living.

Children of Magdalena STANGER and JOHN EARHARD are:

- i. THERESA⁴ EARHARD, m. RUFUS WAMPLER
- ii. MARGARET P. EARHARD, m. DAVID HUDDLE

4. MALVINA⁴ STANGER (SYLVESTER³, JOHN², STANGER¹) She married EPHRAIM WAMPLER.

Child of Malvina STANGER and EPHRAIM WAMPLER is:

- i. HARVEY S.⁴ WAMPLER, b. 1867, Wythe County, Virginia.

Notes for HARVEY S. WAMPLER:

Harvey owned a dulcimer.

From Rural Retreat area.

The Wamplers were potters. (Glimpses, p. 92). Lived in Black Lick Community. The Wamplers were German-speaking in 1780s. (Glimpses, p. 39).

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