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Early settlers of Nacoochee Valley came from Carolina

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Special to The Times

A number of years ago while visiting in Helen, I walked in the Post Office and asked about early settlers in Nacoochee Valley. I was shown a list of names and given some history that was of interest to present day Hall Countians.

The information was collected and recorded by a Mr. Bristol who later moved to Santee, N.C. There were 61 different families that came to Nacoochee Valley in two separate parties. They came from Burke and Rutherford

Counties, N.C.

The group from Burke County left North Carolina on March 1, 1822, and arrived at Nacoochee on the 10th. The party from Rutherford County followed the first group by one day, using the same camp fire sites. The Burke County group was led by Daniel Brown and Edward Williams and the Rutherford Countians had for their leaders, the Rev. Jesse Richardson, Abraham Littlejohn and Adam Pitner.

Hard Travel

Travel was difficult, since roads had to be cut through the

forests. Most of the people came in ox wagons or rode horses. They brought with them their cattle, sheep, hogs, goats and chickens; also, there were horses and mules and slaves. These early settlers brought rose bushes, and Virginia and Johnson grass.

The North Carolinians were the first white people in Nacoochee Valley and they bought land from the Indians for one penny an acre. Daniel Brown, father-in-law of Edward Williams, bought 2,000 acres for \$200.

Daniel Brown died in 1852 and

is buried in Nacoochee. In his will he named a son, Harwell. The Brown homeplace later was known as the Harwell home and still later, the Starr Place.

Edwards Williams bought land and may have inherited other property, which was divided among his children at his death. Daniel Brown's daughter and husband, Henry Conley, settled where Helen Station is now located.

Others

Other families from Burke and Rutherford Counties, N.C., were: John Trammel, wife, and

six children. They settled where Robertstown now stands. The William Westmoreland family settled near Tray Mountain near the Chattahoochee River.

Thomas Abernethy and family also built a home near the foot of the mountain, and the elderly gentleman, David Huston, who had once been wealthy, lived on the Daniel Brown place.

Benjamin Cleveland, a general in the War of 1812, whose father was a colonel in the Revolutionary War, bought much property. It is said that

the town of Cleveland, White County, is named for him.

Gold

Elish Capps went to California in 1852 in search of gold. He married and remained in California. His homeplace was located on the river, and it was said that he never drank water.

The William Bell family settled on Bell Branch of Buckhorn Mountain. He is buried on what is known as Capps Place, or England graveyard. He was the grand-

father of Congressman Tom Bell of Ninth District, now deceased.

William England, wife and children, moved to what is known today as the Dean Place. Colonel Herbert Dean is said to have been born here.

William Alley finally moved three miles north of Clarksville on the Soque River. Capt. Wilber Lenard and family first settled near Robertson Mine and later moved to the Dover Mill Place, where he built a mill later known as Stovall Mill.

Other families were Jesse Holcomb and wife, Peggy, Thomas Mauldins, Jesse Loveladys, Aunt Marty Foster, mother of Robbie Foster, the Rev. William Crumley and family, the Adam Vandivers, John Gibbs and daughter, Mrs. John Evans, the Wash Evans family, James Bob and Ben Foster and families, Moses Hawshaw, Job Sosebee, Abraham Sosebee, and mother, Aunt Patsy Sosebee.