

## Bertie County, North Carolina Vital Statistics, 1700s-1920

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Willoughby, Isaac</b>
<b>Spouse:</b>	Elizabeth Willoughby
<b>Date of Marriage:</b>	22 Aug 1792

### Source Information

Herrin, Cynthia, comp.. *Bertie County, North Carolina Vital Statistics, 1700s-1920* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2001.

Original data: Sentinel Publications. *Bertie Beginnings: The Story of Our County and Its Distinguished Citizens*. Kinston, NC, USA: Sentinel Publications, 1921.

### About Bertie County, North Carolina Vital Statistics, 1700s-1920

Bertie County, North Carolina was formed in 1722 from Chowan County. The county seat is Windsor. This database is abstracted from a county history that was published locally. The book is divided into two sections: (1) a general history of Bertie County, and (2) a biography of about 600 families that contains more than 184,000 names. Because of its narrative nature, the book often answers questions not addressed in census and state records. It is an excellent supplement to more traditional records. Fields of information include: name, birth date, birthplace, spouse, marriage date, marriage location, father's name, mother's name, children, date of death, place of death, last known location, other notes, race, military, and occupation. ""Although the book does not list an author or editor, it may be that the source book was written by Thomas R. Speller Sr and privately published by his brother Henry Beard of Lenoir county.""

**There are errors in the book** that have been transferred to the database. Because of the detail of some accounts, it seems as though the informants themselves provided much of the information. Parts of the information are undeniably reliable, such as excerpts of newspaper articles and funeral speeches, lists of church members, high school graduation lists, guest lists from weddings, accounts of participants in clubs, Masonic society lists, and lawsuits. Other information is suspect. As in census records, birth dates and maiden names may have been estimations. One daughter's account of the family origin on page 166 might be different from another daughter's account on page 172. The spelling of names is also often curious. For example, my Eure family is spelled Ewer throughout the database. Taylor and Tayloe are mixed up, and all the McWilliams seem to have become Williams.

It is important to realize that information has been entered into the database exactly as it was found in the book. For example, on a few occasions, people have listed dates of death that precede their dates of birth; also, there are instances when people are listed in a CSA unit even though they lived and died in the 18th century. It is up to the researcher to reconcile the differences.

Whenever race was indicated, it has been noted in the ""Other Notes"" column. The biographical section has a section at the back devoted to ""Coloured Families."" The book and the database assume that everyone not labelled ""Negro"" is white. However, some of the people mentioned in the narrative section are not Caucasian, but Native American, African American, or bi-racial—and not identified as such.

Keep in mind the fact that, in the past, relationships were often defined casually. A stepmother, aunt, or foster mother might be called ""mother""; a cousin or in-law might be called ""sister."" Each bit of information was exacted from the book and entered into the database as it was described, so it is up to the researcher to puzzle out the contradictions.

The book covers approximately 200 years and roughly four or five generations. There were a relatively small number of families in the county at any one time, and even fewer names, so even the most insignificant bit of information has been included, as it might prove important in tracking down a particular individual.