

Elder Shadrack Scarborough **(1755/1760–1818)**

Son of David Scarborough of Edgecombe County, North Carolina

by Timothy Dean Hudson

Shadrack Scarborough was the son of David Scarborough and his wife, Sarah. Born in Isle of Wight County (now Southampton County), Virginia about 1720, David Scarborough was reportedly the great-grandson of William Scarborough, the man hanged by Virginia Governor Berkeley on 16 March 1676/77 for his participation in Bacon's Rebellion [1]. David Scarborough immigrated from Southampton County, Virginia to Edgecombe County, North Carolina in about 1758 [2]. He purchased land on Town Creek and on Beaver Dam Swamp in the 1760s [3]. David wrote his will in November 1773

November 20, 1773

*I David Scarborough Lend all my Houses and Chattles and all my Eastate that should be Left after all my Dets is Pad to my loving Wife Sarah Scarborough then During hir life or Wiooder hood accept She Wast it an then and Mae be Lawful for any one of my sons to take it and take Care of it finding hir a liven as long as She Remaines a Widdow at her Marredge or Death then my Land to be Equely Defided between my two youngest sons Joel Scarborough the Plantasion Part and Labe Scarborough the Woddlen hlf and they no more of my living but two Jams Scarborough and Tabithey Scarborough and Samuel Scarborough and Addorson Scarborough and Shadrach Scarborough and Obod** [Obediah] Scarborough and Saley Scarborough and Every thing that Can be found belonging to my a State to be Equily Devieded between these Children. Sind seald and Dellivererd in the Presents of us*

David Scar borough

David Scarborough died the following summer, and his will was filed in the county court in July 1774 [4].

Shadrack Scarborough's birth probably occurred between about 1755 and 1760, either in Virginia or very soon after his parents arrived in North Carolina. On 5 August 1778, he purchased 133½ acres of land on the south side of Town Creek in Edgecombe County, North Carolina from Thomas Davis for £108 proclamation money [5]. On the same day, Shadrack witnessed another land sale by Thomas Davis [6].

Shadrack Scarborough enlisted in December 1779 in the North Carolina Continental Line in support of the Whig or Patriot cause against the British and Loyalists. He served as an ensign in a

company commanded by Captain Fred Bell, belonging to the regiment commanded by Colonel John Shephard. His unit went to Charleston and participated in the siege, serving until April 1780 [7].

In April 1781, Shadrack Scarborough and his brother, Samuel, enlisted in Colonel Abraham Shepard's 10th Regiment, North Carolina Continental Line. Shadrack served in Captain Hall's company, and he received a discharge on 12 April 1782 [8]. Shadrack Scarborough received payment for his service in the North Carolina Continental Line in 1783 and 1784 [9].

On 26 September 1786, Henrietto Davis Brown sold 133½ acres of land "*on the South side of Town creek*" in Edgecombe County, North Carolina that adjoined "*Shadrach Scarborougs corner*" [10]. Although Shadrack continued to own his 133½-acre tract on the south side of Town Creek property for another two decades, it appears that he had already emigrated from Edgecombe County by 1786. Either his elderly widowed mother or another relative may have resided on the tract during this period. On 3 March 1798, Solomon Forehand of Edgecombe County wrote his will, leaving to his son, Jordan Forehand, "*all my land that lies on the road where Shadrach [sic] Scarborough formily [sic] lived*" [11]. On 19 December 1807, as a resident of the "*State of Georgia Burk [sic] County*," Shadrack Scarborough sold his land on Town Creek to Jonathan Gardner Jr. for "*two hundred silver dollars*" [12].

By mid-1784, Shadrack Scarborough had joined the general post-Revolutionary War Scarborough immigration into Burke County, Georgia. He petitioned the Burke County Court of Justices for a land grant, and on 6 July 1784, they issued him a warrant for survey of a 250-acre tract on Dukes Pond near the land of Benjamin Richardson. The surveyor did not complete the survey during the allotted time period, perhaps an indication that Scarborough had returned briefly to North Carolina. On 5 September 1785, the Burke County Land Court ordered his warrant "*renewed for the term of Six Months*" [13]. The surveyor completed his work on 26 October 1785, showing a 250-acre tract for Scarborough on Dukes Pond that adjoined Richardson's line to the southeast [14]. The state of Georgia issued Scarborough a grant for the land in March 1787 [15].

Due to a series of courthouse fires that destroyed all early records of Burke County, we know little else of Shadrack Scarborough's life in Georgia. In 1795, "*Shads. Scarborough*" signed a Burke County petition protesting the Yazoo Land fraud made by Georgia's corrupt governor [16]. In January 1799, Shadrack Scarborough served as the lieutenant of the Burke County Volunteer Light Infantry Company, attached to the 1st Battalion of 2nd Regiment, Burke County Militia. Scarborough served under Captain Samuel Bird. On 20 May 1801, Shadrack succeeded Bird as captain [17]. Shadrack Scarborough resided in Burke County when he registered for the Georgia Land Lottery in 1803/1804, apparently registering along with our Addison Scarborough [18].

During the summer of 1809, Shadrack Scarborough appraised the estate of Elizabeth Banks in Bulloch County [19]. It appears that Shadrack's land lay near the Burke/Bulloch county line, for his brother, Samuel, lived in Bulloch. Samuel Scarborough wrote his will on 13 December 1809, and in it he expressed apparent reservations about his wife's ability to handle his affairs after his demise, writing,

...and if my wife Should make way with my property in an unlawful manner or not for the support of my family desire that Aaron Bennet and Shadrach Scarborough will take the Said Estate into their Care and dispose of it in that which they shall think most to the advantage of the said family...

Samuel named Aaron Bennett and Shadrack Scarborough "*which I authorize and request to be Executors*" of his will. Unusually, he had his wife, Elizabeth, sign the will at the time he wrote it, saying, "*I do acknowledge that the within will made by my dear husband Samuel Scarborough is to my Satisfaction*" [20].

Despite his activities in Bulloch County, Shadrack Scarborough remained a resident of Burke County during this period. He had letters waiting for him in the Waynesborough Post Office, the Burke County seat, in April 1811, April and October 1812, and January 1815 [21].

One strong connection between Shadrack Scarborough and our [Addison Scarborough](#) is their strong Baptist faith. The Skull Creek Baptist Church organized in 1804, then located in the portion of Bulloch County that became Emanuel County in 1812 and Jenkins County in 1905. Shadrack and his brother, Samuel Scarborough, both joined Skull Creek Church in 1804 or 1805. The church apparently selected Shadrack and Samuel as deacons, and on 27 August 1805, they accepted five acres of land for the use of the church from Abraham Lane [22]. The church had called Shadrack and Samuel's nephew, [Lawrence Scarborough](#), as its first pastor, but in 1807, Lawrence decided to emigrate from Georgia across the Creek nation into Mississippi Territory [23]. Upon his removal from the area, the Skull Creek Baptist Church called Shadrack Scarborough as their pastor, and

...while the sd. Church was under the pastoral care of Shadrack Scarborough the constitution was moved from Scull creek to Battle Branch in sd. County and was called Hebron Church...

Shadrack Scarborough served Skull Creek Church as pastor until his death in 1818 [24].

Shadrack Scarborough left a will and named Reddick Scarborough as his executor. The estate took at least a decade to settle, for in January 1827, Reddick Scarborough advertised for a sale to be held in early March 1827 of 250 acres of land that belonged to the Shadrack Scarborough estate [25]. Reddick Scarborough's connection to Shadrack is uncertain, but he had served as the executor of the estate of Shadrack's brother, Lemuel Scarborough, in 1816–1817 [26]. Reddick

could have been Shadrack's son or his nephew. Reddick Scarborough had his mark and brand in Bulloch County on 16 June 1819. He registered his mark as "*an over slope and under bit in each ear*" and his brand as "*R.S.*" [27]. Reddick lived in Bulloch County in 1820 and in Burke County in 1830, the last known record of him [28].

The destruction of the early records of Burke County prevents us from learning any details of the bequests made in Shadrack Scarborough's will. In particular, no known evidence exists to document his children. Some claim he was the father of Frederick Scarborough, but no evidence supports this claim. Circumstantial evidence suggests that Elder Shadrack Scarborough is the father of [Addison Scarborough](#).

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Notes

1. Morse, Sara Hamer Scarborough. *White Columns*. Columbia, SC: R. L. Bryan, 1977, pp. 84–86. Scarborough, Jewell Davis. *Southern Kith and Kin: A Record of My Children's Ancestors, Volume 3, Major James Scarborough: His Ancestors and Descendants*. Abilene Printing Company, 1957, pp. 36–39. William Scarburgh's son, Edward Scarborough, Sr. (c1666–c1716) married in 1691 and raised his family in Surry County, Virginia. Among Edward's children was son William Scarborough, Jr. (c1697–1736), who married Sarah. William wrote his will on 9 November 1735, and it named David Scarborough as his son (Isle of Wight Will Book 4, p. 140).
2. Revolutionary War Pension File #S7467, Application of James Scarborough. On 25 February 1833, James Scarborough stated: "He was born in the County of South Hampton Virginia the 29th day of November AD 1748...and was brought by his parents to Edgecombe County North Carolina at 10 years of age where he resided ever since..."
3. Edgecombe County NC Deed Book 1, p. 310. David Scarborough purchased 100 acres of land on the bands of Town Creek on 17 April 1762 from Robert Wright. In Deed Book D, p. 316, on 12 February 1771 David Scarborough purchased 150 acres on the south bank of Beaver Dam Swamp from John and Elizabeth Dunagan. There was another David Scarborough who lived in Edgecombe County at this time, but it is believed that these records are for our David, based upon descriptions of the land he left to his sons (see Deed Book 4, pp. 487–488, where Lemuel Scarborough sells his portion of the land of the land left to his deceased brother Joel by their father, David).
4. North Carolina Secretary of State Records, Edgecombe County Wills, David Scarborough, 1774.
5. Edgecombe County NC Deed Book 3, pp. 389–390 (Thomas Davis to Shadrach Scarborough, 5 August 1778).
6. Edgecombe County NC Deed Book 3, p. 368 (Thomas Davis to William King, 5 August 1778; witnesses: Jacob Morrell, Shadrach Scarborough). Scarborough made his mark to the document. Davis sold King a 100-acre tract of land "lying on the South side of Town Creek."
7. Revolutionary War Pension File #S3668, Application of Micajah Pettaway.
8. Clark, Walter, ed. *The State Records of North Carolina*. Vol. XVI. Goldsboro, NC: Nash Brothers, 1899, pp. 1002, 1006, 1164.
9. Treasurer's and Controller's Papers, Revolutionary War Pay Vouchers, Scarborough, Shadrach #6211, Halifax District, unspecified claims, 15 February 1792; Army Accounts, Book K, p. 101; Army Accounts, Book VII, p. 59, folio 1 (heading), p. 66, folio 1: Shadrach Scarborough.
10. Edgecombe County NC Deed Book 4, pp. 441–442 (Heneritto Brown "formerly Henritto Davis" Davis to Rhoda Allen, 26 September 1786).
11. Edgecombe County NC Original Wills, Solomon Forehand, 1802 (written 3 March 1798, filed in Edgecombe County Court in August 1802).
12. Edgecombe County NC Deed Book 12, pp. 391–392 (Shadrack Scarborough to Jonathan Gardner Jr., 19 December 1807).
13. Georgia Headright and Bounty Documents, 1783–1909. LDS Film #005271481, Images #93–95, Shadrack Scarborough.
14. Headright and Lottery Loose Plat File, Georgia Surveyor General, RG 3-3-26, Georgia Archives, Vol. I, p. 615, Shadrack Scarborough, 250 acres, surveyed 20 October 1785.
15. Georgia Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783–1909. Register of Grants 1787, Vol. NNN, p. 86 (Shadrack Scarborough, 250 acres in Burke County, 15 March 1787).
16. Schaick, Edward E. Van, Jr., compl. and ed. *Some Georgia County Records, Vol. 8, Being Some of the Legal Records of Burke, Chatham, Columbia, Montgomery, Murray, Oglethorpe and Washington Counties*. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977, pp. 1–2. The original petition is located in the Telamon Cuyler Collection, Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscripts Library, University of Georgia Libraries. Shadrack's brother, Lemuel, also signed the petition, as well as Aaron and Moses Scarborough and Noah Stringer.
17. Smith, Gordon Burns and Anna Habersham Wright Smith. *History of the Georgia Militia, 1783–1861, Vol. II*. Milledgeville, GA: Boyd Publishing, 2000, p. 90.
18. Graham, pp. 487–488.
19. Bulloch County GA Marriage Record 1-A (1809–1816), pp. 125–127. Shadrack Scarborough was listed as the appraiser on returns made to the court on July 1 and September 14, 1809. Shadrack made his mark when signing the inventories.
20. Bulloch County GA Marriage Record 1-A (1809–1816), pp. 134–136 (will of Samuel Scarborough, written 13 December 1809, filed in court on 5 February 1810). Samuel named his wife, Elizabeth, sons Jesse, Samuel, James, and David, and daughters Martha, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Mary Scarborough, and Winny Acock (Adcock?). He requested that Winny's portion be paid to James Winny.
21. "Augusta Herald" (Augusta, GA), 25 April 1811 (p. 6, column 2); April 9 (p. 3, column 4) and 16 (4, column 4), October 8 (p. 3, column 4), 15 (p. 1, column 2), and 22 (p. 1, column 3), 1812; January 12 (p. 6, column 2) and 19 (p. 4, column 1), 1815.

22. Bulloch County GA Deed Book AA, p. 111 (John Richardson, Shadrack Scarborough, and Samuel Scarborough to Abraham S. Lane, 27 August 1805). The record was made between Lane and "...the Commissioners of the Scull Creek Baptist Church To wit. John Richardson, Shadrack Scarborough and Samuel Scarborough and their Successors in Office, planters of the State aforesaid and Counties of Bulloch and Burk..."
23. Bryan, Mary G. *Passports Issued by Governors of Georgia, 1785-1809*. Special Publications of the National Genealogical Society, No. 21. Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 1959, pp. 21, 45.
24. Hebron Baptist Church Minutes, p. 3. Dorsey, James E. *Footprints Along the Hoopee: A History of Emanuel County, 1812-1900*. Gainsville, GA: Magnolia Press, 1978, p. 36.
25. "Southern Recorder" (Milledgeville, GA), 23 January 1827, p. 4, column 2.
26. "Georgia Journal" (Milledgeville, GA), 14 August 1816 (p. 1, column 2); November 17 (p. 3, column 5) and 24 (p. 1, column 1), December 1 (p. 4, column 5), 8 (p. 1, column 3), and 15 (p. 1, column 5), 1818.
27. Bulloch County GA Marks & Brands (1796-1954), p. 21.
28. 1820 Bulloch County GA Federal Census, p. 16, line #15: Reddic Scarborow [sic]. 1830 Burke County GA Federal Census, p. 127, line #13: Reddick Scarborough.

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