

Adams, Wendy L.

2009 The Nottingham Settlement, A North Carolina Backcountry Community, pp 138-139.  
<https://scholarworks.iupui.edu/bitstream/handle/1805/2028/Title%20page%20and%20front%20matter.pdf?sequence=1>, accessed December 12, 2013.

### **Robert Rankin (?-1795)**<sup>239</sup>

BORN: probably Ulster, Ire. IMMIGRATED: unknown. DIED: in Guilford Co.<sup>240</sup> **FAMILY BACKGROUND.** FATHER: unknown. MOTHER: unknown. SIBLINGS: unknown. **MARRIED** Rebecca (surname unknown).<sup>241</sup> **CHILDREN.** SONS: *George* (1729–1760), who m. *Lydia Steele*; Robert (?–?); and John (?–?). DAUGHTERS: Rebecca (?–?); Isabel (?–?); and Mary (abt. 1766–bef. 1795), who m. Andrew Wilson.<sup>242</sup> **PRIVATE CAREER.** EDUCATION: level of literacy unclear; his signature appears on the original Granville land grants and his will, indicating an ability to write his name.<sup>243</sup> CHURCH ACTIVITY: As a member of the Buffalo Presbyterian Church, served as a ruling elder in its early history.<sup>244</sup> OCCUPATION: farmer. **PUBLIC CAREER.** MINOR OFFICES: in 1758, listed as a member of the jury in *Richard Crunk v. Joseph Pevey*.<sup>245</sup>

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<sup>239</sup> Guilford Co. Wills, A:316. During this time period in Rowan (Guilford) Co., North Carolina, there reportedly lived two —Robert Rankins—both of whom settled in central North Carolina between 1750 and 1760. The other —Robert Rankin was born around 1736 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and married Jean Denny (daughter of *William Denny*).

<sup>240</sup> Guilford Co. Wills, A:316.

<sup>241</sup> Moore and Rankin, *Rankins of North Carolina*, 2:677.

<sup>242</sup> Ibid.; and Guilford Co. Wills, A:316. Rankin's will named three children—George, Mary and Isabel. Although the George Rankin who married Lydia Steele died thirty-five years before this Robert Rankin wrote his will, it is possible that Robert Rankin referred to son George's heirs when he bequeathed part of his estate to —my son George. Also, the tract of Granville land leased by Lydia (Steele) Rankin in lieu of deceased husband George Rankin (1729–1760) adjoins the Granville land leased by Robert Rankin (?–1795).

<sup>243</sup> Will of Robert Rankin Sr. (1795), Guilford Wills; and Robert Rankin, 640 acres, Rowan (June 24, 1758), Granville Grants.

<sup>244</sup> Rankin, *Buffalo Presbyterian Church*, 122.

<sup>245</sup> Rowan Co. Minutes, 2:220.

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: witnessed signing of Robert Mitchell's will in 1775.<sup>246</sup> **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** LAND: obtained a Granville land grant containing 480 acres in Rowan (Guilford) Co. for three shillings proclamation money (and nineteen shillings and two and one-half pence yearly rent) on December 1, 1753, and sold this tract to son *George Rankin* for five shillings sterling in April 1755; obtained a Granville land grant containing 640 acres in Rowan (Guilford) Co. for three shillings proclamation money (and twenty-five shillings and seven and one-half pence yearly rent) on December 3, 1753, and sold this tract to *William Denny* for five shillings sterling in April 1755; obtained a Granville land grant containing 640 acres (designated No. 8 of the thirty Nottingham Settlement tracts) in Rowan (Guilford) Co. for ten shillings sterling (and twenty-five shillings and seven and one-half pence yearly rent) on June 24, 1758.<sup>247</sup> **WEALTH AT DEATH.** In his will, dated May 30, 1795, Rankin mentions the following—LAND: 1,000 acres of land, plus an additional unspecified amount of acreage. PERSONAL PROPERTY: his —movables, including a desk, carpenter tools, a big Bible, his books, his razor and wearing apparel, and one enslaved man (—Sambo) and one enslaved woman (—Rhodal) both of African descent.<sup>248</sup>

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248 Guilford Co., Record of Wills, A:316.