

Paisley Family Research and News

Early Paisley Photos



Robert Paisley (1805-1859)



Mary H. McLean Paisley (1806-1871)

The photos of Robert Paisley and his wife Mary McLean Paisley were recently acquired by Alice Paisley Houtz and her husband Gary. The photos are part of an album that had belonged to Calvin Denton Paisley (1882-1960). Denton's granddaughter Jean Paisley Lee died during Covid and Jean's husband Paul offered the album to Alice (granddaughter of Denton Paisley's brother Robert Hughes Paisley).

The album is deeply embossed leather over cardboard. The brass clasp has a tree leaf ornamentation. The inscription on the fly page says "Presented to Calvin Paisley by his sister Mary E. Paisley". The album contains 50 images. Each page's window for images is 3-3/8" tall by 2-1/8" wide with a center page opening of 2-5/8 x 4-5/8". The photographs vary in size, shape and substrate. They appear to have been created using different photographic processes and were mounted with varying methods.

The photos of Robert and Mary are on paper and most likely are Albumen prints. Robert died in 1859, just as photography was becoming available in major cities. Hillsboro, IL was no metropolis in the mid-1800's, but amazingly the town did have at least one photographer. Jesse Hanson Jones (b.1820 Lewis VA) was farming and teaching school in Effingham, IL in 1839. In 1850 he became a traveling photographer. In 1855 Jesse established a photo studio in Hillsboro, Illinois and continued to operate it into the early 1900s.

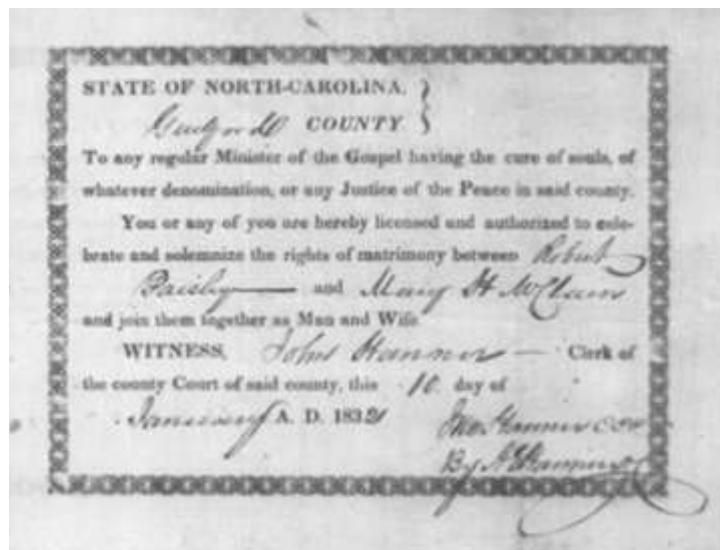
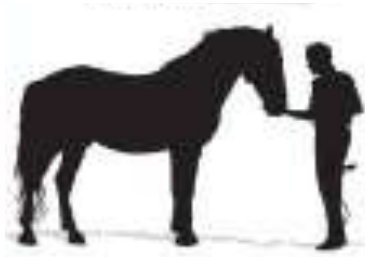
Robert Paisley (1805-1859)

Robert Paisley was born 25 Mar 1805 in Guilford County North Carolina to John and Jane Rankin Paisley. He grew up in the Alamance Presbyterian Church area near lots of relatives including his Paisley grandparents, William and Dilly Paisley. His father John was a farmer and distiller. Robert lost his grandmother in 1818, and both his mother and grandfather in September 1822.

The fertile farmland of Illinois was a strong draw for many. Robert's uncle Robert moved to Kentucky, and by 1816 was in Madison (later called Bond) County, Illinois. Robert's brother William went to the same area of Illinois in 1818. In 1822 brother Joseph and sister Deliverance traveled to IL. And finally in 1828 Robert, his father, and more siblings headed to Montgomery County, IL.

Robert purchased 80 acres in Montgomery County in 1831. Maybe at that point Robert felt he could support a wife? Robert traveled on horseback nearly 1000 miles to Guilford County NC to wed his sweetheart Mary H. McLean. They were wed on 12 Jan 1832 in Guilford County.

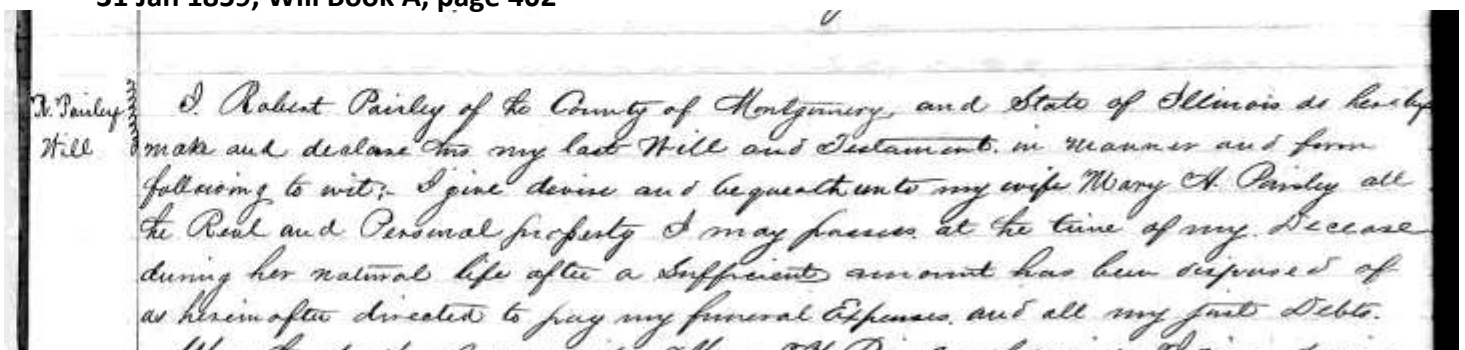
Robert and Mary returned to Illinois and started a family. They had a total of eight children. Over the years, Robert added to his land holdings around Hillsboro. He was ordained an Elder at the Presbyterian Church of Hillsboro on 21 Feb 1846. Robert farmed the land until he was bitten by a dog and tragically died of rabies on 2 Mar 1859.



MARRIAGE BOND
GUILFORD CO NC
Robert Paisley &
Mary H. McClain,
10 Jan 1832

ROBERT PAISLEY'S WILL, MONTGOMERY CO IL

31 Jan 1859, Will Book A, page 402



Robert and Mary McLean Paisley's descendants through their son Calvin Marshall



Photo taken Aug 1956 by Ernest Paisley at his brother Denton's farm in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

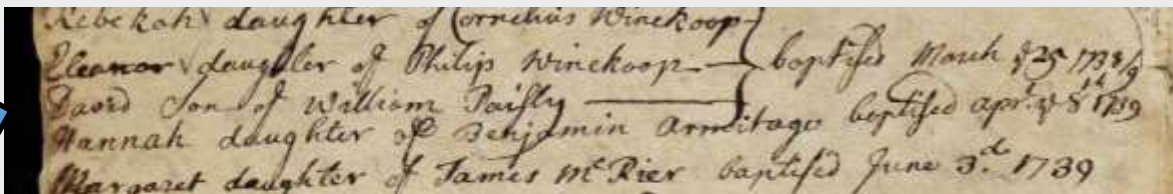
Front row, left to right: Esther Paisley Montante, Alice Paisley (Houtz) age 5 (daughter of Ernest & Muriel), Wayne Paisley (son of Howard), Merriam Paisley (wife of John C.), John C. Paisley.

Back row, left to right: Pedro Montante (Esther's husband), holding son, Robert Montante, Jean Paisley (daughter of Howard), Muriel Paisley (wife of Ernest), Grace Paisley, Howard Paisley, Julia Gibson Paisley (wife of Denton), C. Denton Paisley, Earl Carr (husband of Ruth), Ruth Paisley Carr.

THANKS TO ALICE PAISLEY HOUTZ FOR SHARING HER PHOTOS!

David Paisley—who is he?

The next issue of *Paisley Family Research & News* will have some exciting information to share about David and other early Paisley's in Pennsylvania.



"David Son of William Paisly—baptized March 25, 1738/9"

[from *Abington Presbyterian Church Session Register 1713-1821*,

Town of Abington, PA, available on Ancestry.com, U.S., *Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970*, image 24]

A revision of the Buffalo Presbyterian Church Cemetery records

In *Paisley Family Research & News*, issue 12, page 4 there was an article on Buffalo Presbyterian Church Cemetery burials. The source was Raymond Donnell's *Buffalo Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, Greensboro North Carolina*. Donnell reported one readable Paisley stone:

"Paisley, Mary Ann. 2nd dau of Rev. William D. Paisley D July 23, 1830 in the 28th year of her age"

The book then noted that Rev. Samuel Rankin and his wife Mary Wharton Rankin had done a survey of the cemetery 1910-1931. This survey, plus a partial one done in 1935 by Mrs. John Welborn, and session minutes of the Buffalo and Bethel Churches had noted, in addition to Mary Ann Paisley's grave, these graves:

"Paisley, Harriett M. D 1822 aged 13 yrs"

"Paisley, William D. D 1830 aged 28 yrs"

Part III of Donnell's book listed unknown grave sites in the old section that were determined by researchers Rev. Samuel Rankin and William Calvin Rankin, and session records of Buffalo and Bethel Churches:

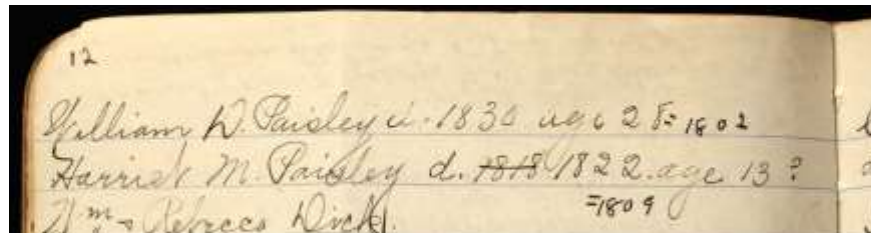
"Paisley, Margaret (Donnell). B 1771– Dcd. 1794. Dau. of Robert and Mary Donnell. First wife of William Paisley (III), son of William and Deliverance (Paine) Paisley."

Now, a look back through Donnell's book gives one more visible Paisley grave that should have been noted in the previous newsletter: **"Sikes, M. Cornelia. Wife of W. N. Sikes. Sept 9, 1846/Aug 21, 1928. [dau. William A. & Margaret (Wiley) Paisley]."**

BUT, it is always best to go back to the original source and confirm with additional sources. A search turned up Rev. Samuel Rankin's notebook



These entries don't inspire confidence that information was recorded correctly. So a search was made for further information. From the *Raleigh Register* edition of Oct 4, 1822 was the notice not only of Harriett's death on 24th August but also her sister **Francis M. Paisley, aged 17 years, died Sep 11, 1822**. This was another daughter of William D. Paisley. It's not likely that Francis was buried in a cemetery different from two of her sisters and a brother. Her stone was not visible in 1910. Francis' grave has been lost to time.



At Greensborough, Guilford county, on the 24th August last, Harriett M. Paisley, aged 14 years, daughter of the Rev. Wm Paisley. And on the 11th ult. Francis M. Paisley, aged 17 years.

Now to further complicate the list of burial, comes information from a survey done 1938-1940 by Annette S. Tinsley for the Historical Records Survey of North Carolina, as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Apparently this survey was unknown to Raymond Donnell in 1994. The only Paisley graves listed: **"Paisley, Harriett M. D. Aug. 26, 1822, in her 85th year."**

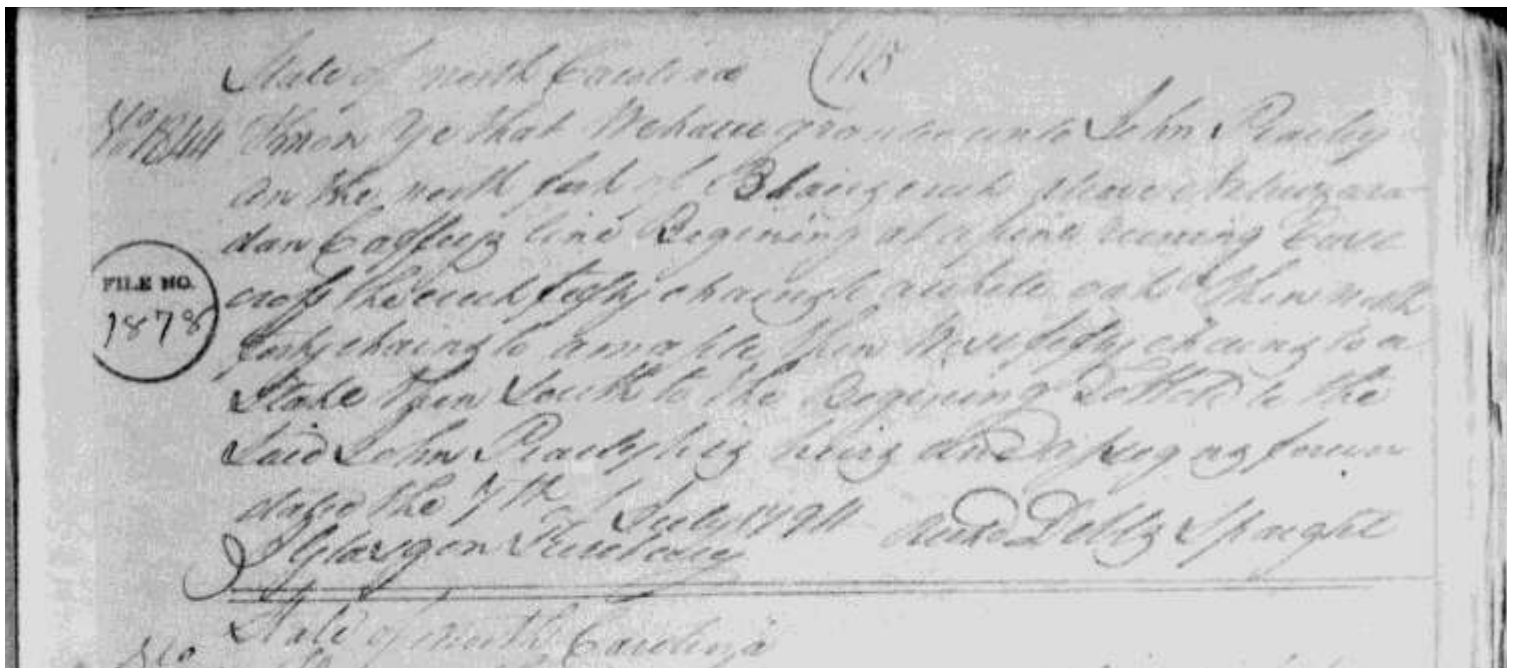
"Paisley, Mary Ann D. 23 day of July 1830, in the 28 year of her age. Daughter of Rev'd. William Paisley."

The questions that come to mind are, What did Harriet M. Paisley's grave stone actually say? Rev. Rankin only had a year listed, plus he crossed through dates. Did the partial Welborn 1935 survey actually see any graves, or were they getting information from Rev. Sam Rankin's notebook? Why does the WPA survey have Harriett M. Paisley's tombstone having the exact date of burial (Aug 26, 1822), but Rev. Rankin's notebook did not? Why does the WPA survey have Harriett as an 85 year old woman? A look through the Donnell book did not find ANY woman aged 85 that could have been mixed up with Harriett's grave. IF Harriett was an 85 year old woman, her birth would be 1737. This would put her in the generation of William Paisley Jr., Col. John Paisley, and Capt. Robert Paisley. Which brings up a very intriguing question of WHO is Harriett M. Paisley and which data is correct? Were there TWO Harriet M. Paisley's? Another mystery to investigate. [Article Sources listed on page 8]

John Peasley land grant in Burke Co NC

The North Carolina Historical Records Online group is a non-profit dedicated to providing access to records and information useful to those researching NC history and genealogy [<http://nchistoricalrecords.org/>]. They recently announced the completion of the **North Carolina Land Grants database**. This searchable file holds 1.2 million digital images of land grants from 1663 to 1960. This includes land now in Tennessee, all the Land Patent Books, surveys, warrants, and receipts. <https://nclandgrants.com/> . This database now allows easy access to John Paisley (1745 PA-1811 NC) land grants in Guilford Co NC and John Paisley (1757 PA-1836 TN) in Burke County, NC.

John Peasley,
200 acres, July 7, 1794 Burke Co NC, N. Fork of Blairs Creek.
Land Grant # 1878, Book 85, page 115.



William Paisley Doak and Choctaw Indian Mystery

By Diane Langston



A few months ago, I received notice that someone had joined the Paisley Family Autosomal DNA Project at FamilyTreeDNA. As always, I sent an email to welcome this lady and ask how she connected to the Paisley family. Her response led me on an extensive search for the answers to a mystery.

Cindy B. is a descendant of Sarah Ann "Sally" Doak (abt. 1810 TN-1882 TX). DNA tests confirm Cindy's connection to other descendants of Sally Doak. Sally was ½ Choctaw Indian, as stated by her name on the Mt. Tabor Indian Community Roll (Rusk, TX). The stories say that Sally's father was William Doak. He had a relationship with a Choctaw Indian which produced a daughter. He also was supposedly married to Mary "Polly" McMurray. Legend says Sally was taken back to Tennessee by Polly to be raised by Doak family. Through the years, some family researchers said that Sally was the daughter of William **Paisley** Doak. Cindy was hoping to confirm through DNA the connection of Sally Doak to the Paisley family.

Also factoring into this story is the notoriety of being associated with the "Treaty of Doak's Stand." This event occurred 20 Oct 1820 near William Doak's tavern, in what is now Madison County, Mississippi. Andrew Jackson met with a Choctaw Indian delegation, who were forced to sign a treaty relinquishing rights to half their land.

Background on Doak connection to the Paisley family

The youngest of Immigrant William Paisley's (1707 IRE- 1787 NC) children was Mary Paisley (1750 PA-1837 TN). In 1775 she married James Wilson Doak in Guilford County NC.

James was one of three sons of John Doak. All Doak sons had large families and each one of them (as proven by their wills) had sons named William. James Wilson Doak died 1806 in Guilford County, leaving a will naming his children, including son William P. Doak. His widow Mary and all the children except the youngest son left Guilford County and went to Tennessee. Some members of James Wilson Doak's brother William also headed to Tennessee, including sons Josiah S. and William H. Doak.

The widowed Mary Paisley Doak lived with her daughter Eleanor Blair until she died. She is buried on the Blair family farm in Beechgrove, Coffee County TN. In 1976, the Paisley family reunion group (predecessor to our current PFA) gathered on the Blair farm and dedicated a grave stone to Mary Paisley Doak.

Steps taken to confirm or disprove Cindy's connection to the Paisley family

DNA: Now that I had access to Cindy's DNA results, I did my own search to see if she matched any known Paisley descendants – NO

Arthur Rankin Paisley was our first DNA participant in the Paisley project. I did a search through his matches to see if he matched any Doak descendants – YES. He matched three people who identified a connection to Mary Paisley Doak. None of these matches connected to Cindy.

I then looked at Ancestry DNA where my mother Rovenia has tested. I found two women who trace back to William Paisley Doak and Mary "Polly" McMurray. I confirmed their only connection to my mom was

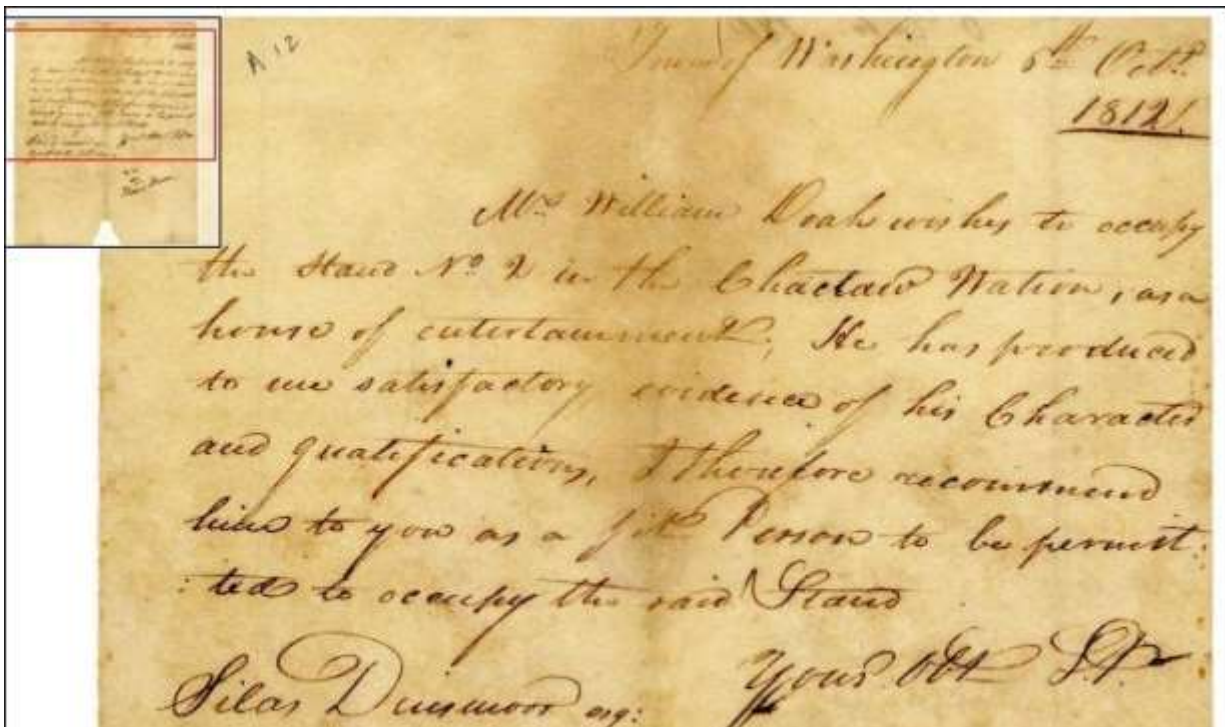
through Mary Paisley Doak. Cindy has not tested at Ancestry, but I looked for connections from my mom to other Sarah Ann Doak descendants and did not find any.

Paper trail: After extensive research into Guilford Co NC and Hinds, Yazoo, Madison, and Tallahatchie Counties records, I KNOW that Sarah Ann Doak, Choctaw Indian, was NOT the daughter of William Paisley Doak. Nor did I find any official or family records that confirmed Sally was given the name "Doak" and that her father was a "William Doak." I KNOW that William Paisley Doak was married to Polly McMurray and had five children to survive to adulthood: Ann Doak Mullin (1803), John M. (1809), Boyd McMurray (1811), Jonathan A. (1815), and Martha J. Doak (1821). William Paisley Doak then married about 1828 to a Sarah, who remarried before the estate was settled in 1835, to a Mr. Nail.

I BELIEVE that William Paisley Doak was the William Doak that was granted land in 1812 in the Choctaw territory to set up a tavern, where eight years later the *Treaty of Doak's Stand* was signed. I believe it was William Paisley Doak's first cousins, Josiah and William H. Doak, who set up a second tavern about six years later.

A listing of my sources and pertinent facts are detailed in a timeline, which is listed on the Paisley Family Association website: paisleyfamilyassociation.com; under the HISTORY tab.

Doak's Stand



Town of Washington, Oct 6, 1812

Mr William Doak wishes to occupy this Stand No. 2 in the Choctaw Nation, as a house of entertainment. He has produced to us satisfactory evidence of his character and qualifications, I therefore recommend him to you as a likely person to be permitted to occupy this said Stand.

The next Paisley Family Association Meeting will be Saturday, July 22, 2023 at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 5120 Burlington Rd, Greensboro, NC 27405. Catered lunch at 12 Noon. Details on cost and menu will be announced later.

A short business meeting and program will follow lunch. On the agenda will be a vote on the new Paisley Family Association website. Please check out this new and important venture. The website was constructed by President Don Paisley with input from Gary Paisley and Diane Langston. The site is hosted by Wordpress. <https://paisleyfamilyassociation.com/>

Some web site features:

PFA Charter

Important Paisley family documents

Notable Relatives

Back issues of the PFA Newsletter

DNA summary

Place for members to POST comments



Flag at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781

Sources for Buffalo Church Cemetery article on page 4:

Donnell, Raymond *Buffalo Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, Greensboro North Carolina*. Greensboro: Guilford County Genealogy Society, 1994.

Rankin, Rev. & Mrs. S. M. "Grave Register Buffalo Presbyterian Church Greensboro NC." Presbyterian Historical Society. Plus notes on wills, deeds and marriages. Available on Ancestry.com.

Raleigh Register. Oct 4, 1822 edition, page 3. <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/>

Guilford County Cemetery Survey Records. Works Progress Administration. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p15012coll1/id/33575/>

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Websites of interest to the Paisley Family

Paisley Family Association: <https://paisleyfamilyassociation.com/>

Clan Paisley Society: <http://www.paisleyfamilysociety.org.uk/>

Paisley Family Society USA Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Paisley-Family-Society/195070730565352>

Paisley Family DNA Project web page:

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/paisley/>

Paisley & Allied Families Autosomal DNA Project :

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/paisleyallied-autosomal/about>

Guilford County NC Revolutionary War info:

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/nc/guilford/guilfordmilitary.htm>

WikiTree: <https://www.wikitree.com/genealogy/PAISLEY>