

October 24, 2017

Mr. Christopher J. Ayers
Executive Director Public Staff
4326 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4300



The State of North Carolina Utilities Commission Docket No. E-2, Sub 1150 (Cleveland Matthews Project)

I am writing to express my concerns with the Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct Transmission Line in the Cleveland Area of Johnston County, North Carolina, Docket E-2, Sub 1150.

I live in Segment 33 of the proposed route. I inherited the land that Duke Energy Progress (DEP) would like to take for its use from my grandfather. My brother and I own the farm jointly. I live on approximately 2 acres, adjacent the farm with my husband of 23 years, 17-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son. I have lived adjacent to this property my entire life, 43 years, with the exception of 9 months that I was away at school. My brother lives in Benson, NC. My father died of kidney cancer at 44 years old in 1992, prior to my grandfather passing away in 1998.

I have included documentation related to my family heritage. Elijah Lassiter who lived from 1782-1848 was a soldier of the Revolution, founded the Lassiter family (in this area) and for almost 200 years, held land on the north and south side of Black Creek in what is now Elevation Township. That is where I live. There are 5 of Elijah Lassiter's descendants between the ages of 10-17, in our immediate families, that would potentially inherit land from either myself and my brother, Marty R. Lassiter, or my aunt, Linda L. Keen.

Certainly, I would have raised concerns with Duke Energy Progress, if the November 4, 2016 letter would have been written more clearly. There are a number of landowners along the chosen route, in addition to myself that feel that public notification was inadequate. Not all landowners received the SINGLE notification that was mailed November 4, 2016, prior to the close of public comment (per landowners Linda and Russell Keen). Other landowners have stated to me that they did not get the certified letter that was dated April 20 (per landowners Roy and Sue Massengill and Oliver L. Canaday). I received the Nov 4 letter (**that should have been required to be sent out certified mail**), but did not understand the potential impact of the project from Duke Energy Progress' correspondence. **The Nov 4 letter proved to be a key in the determination of the route because public comment was used in route selection.** My brother, Marty R. Lassiter has stated that he would have had no clue about project if he were not on good terms with me, his sister. We have been told by DEP representatives that correspondence goes to 1st on the deed. My opinion is that this process of notification is unacceptable and any correspondence needs to go to both parties, since both parties are legally responsible for the land. My brother has stated that he felt like something was trying to be slid in on us. It is important to note too that he owns a parcel within 500 feet of the proposed line that bears only his name on the deed.

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Oct 26 2017

Specifically, I'd like to address the statement of not understanding the impact of the project from the letter. Per the article www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov (National Institutes of Health) the average US resident, reads at or below an 8th grade level. I feel that correspondence from any entity that could exercise the use of eminent domain should be required to write at or below an eighth-grade reading level.

The attached November 4, 2016 letter from Duke Energy Progress' subject line states "Important information about a Duke Energy investment in your community." What is important to note is **I DO NOT live in the Cleveland area of Johnston County**. This subject line is misleading.

Also, the November 4, 2016 letter states that Duke Energy Progress was "writing to inform you that Duke Energy identified the need for a transmission-to-distribution substation in the **Cleveland area** of Johnston County to meet the projected growth of the area." It further states that DEP needs to construct a new transmission tap line. According to www.merriam-webster.com the definition that most closely applies to electricity is "an intermediate point in an electric circuit where a connection may be made." I do not have a background in electricity or utilities. My thought process was that Duke Energy Progress wanted to connect to an electrical line that currently exists on my land. Duke Energy Progress failed to notify me in a clear concise way that they needed or would potentially need a **125-150 ft. easement through my property** to build 65-85 ft. H frame structures with high voltage power lines to carry electricity to the new substation at the intersection of Matthews Road and Polenta Road **prior to the close of comment**. The previous sentence is easy for anyone to understand and is an example of being transparent. My concern is that Duke Energy Progress' intent was to be ambiguous enough in their notification as to not solicit a response from all landowners. Lack of transparency on the part of Duke Energy Progress is not, "doing the right thing."

I am enclosing information about the Lassiter's settling in the area our homeplace is located, and factors that I think should have been considered when siting on our family homeplace.

I am asking that you please consider this information when determining the final route selection.

Thank you,



Kimberly L. Canady



Nov. 4, 2016

LASSITER, MARTY R CANADY, KIMBERLY L
950 GUM SWAMP RD
FOUR OAKS, NC 27524-0000

Important information about a Duke Energy investment in your community

Dear Property Owner:

Duke Energy's electrical system is essential to meeting customers' needs, and system reliability is a responsibility that we take seriously. We work to ensure a resilient and secure smart grid to provide reliable service today and in the future. We are committed to being responsive to customers' needs, providing accurate information as well as communicating frequently and transparently with the community.

We are writing to inform you that Duke Energy identified the need for a transmission-to-distribution substation in the Cleveland area of Johnston County to meet the projected growth of the area. The substation will convert the 230-kilovolt (230-kV) transmission line voltage down to 23 kV to serve homes and businesses through local distribution lines. To serve the new substation, we need to construct a new 230-kV transmission tap line to run from one of three existing transmission lines to the new substation.

The new substation will be constructed on land currently owned by Duke Energy on the southeast corner of the intersection of Matthews Road and Polenta Road. The new transmission tap line to feed the substation will connect to one of three existing 230-kV lines: the Lee Sub-Milburnie 230-kV line to the northeast; the Erwin-Selma 230-kV line to the southeast; or the Erwin-Milburnie 230-kV line to the west. The total new investment in this Johnston County system upgrade for the Cleveland area is estimated to be approximately \$28.4 million.

The general locations and proposed alignments of the various alternative routes currently under consideration for the new transmission tap line are depicted on the enclosed map. You are receiving this letter and invitation to a public information open house because your property (or more than one property) falls within 500 feet of the centerline of one of the potential routes being considered for the new transmission tap line. Our goal is to minimize impacts to personal property, homes, businesses, the environment and cultural resources.

**We invite you to attend one of two informational open houses
to learn more about this important project:**

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016 | 4-7 p.m.

C3 Church

8246 Cleveland Road | Clayton, NC 27520

Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016 | 4-7 p.m.

Johnston County Community College – Tart Building

245 College Road | Smithfield, NC 27577

Public participation is a vital part of this process, and that's why we hope you'll attend one of these meetings and provide your input. The meetings will be set up in an open house format, allowing you to attend as your schedule permits. Instead of a presentation, various information stations will be set up with Duke Energy subject matter experts there to address your questions and provide information including visual displays of the project, an estimated timeline and other pertinent information about the project.

There will be opportunities at each of the open house events to ask questions and formally submit your comments and concerns. All public input becomes part of the official data collection record that we carefully consider during the siting evaluation process and before selecting a preferred route. There will be additional opportunities to formally submit comments and concerns to be considered as part of the siting process for an additional 30 days through Friday, Dec. 16, 2016.

Next Steps

We anticipate announcing the preferred route in early to mid-spring of 2017 following the careful review of all public input and extensive expert analysis. After determining the preferred route, Duke Energy will begin surveying the preferred route to establish its precise location and identify the easements required on individual property parcels. Company representatives will work with landowners along the selected route to survey the land and discuss the easement process.

By late spring/early summer 2017, we plan to file the formal Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application for the 230-kV transmission line to request approval by the North Carolina Utilities Commission as required by North Carolina law. Construction is expected to begin by summer of 2018 and be completed before the end of 2019.

No construction will begin until the North Carolina Utilities Commission grants final approval.

If you are unable to attend either of the open house events or if you have additional questions about the project, please contact us at the toll-free number or email address provided below. Information made available at the open houses will also be found at a project-specific website beginning Nov. 16, 2016.

Website: www.duke-energy.com/cleveland-matthews (available beginning Nov. 16, 2016)

Email: CarolinasEast@duke-energy.com

Call: 866.297.5886

We are committed to communicating with you throughout this process. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work through this important project to meet the growing demand for power in your community.

Sincerely,



Phil Williams
Project Manager

Enclosures (1)

Property Identification Numbers (PIN): 165200-63-3989

Lassiter Family Homeplace- Elevation Rd., Four Oaks

Factors Considered When Siting Transmission Lines



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Oct 26 2017



Linda Lassiter Keen did not receive an invitation to the public meetings held in November 2016.

Community/Public Input



Linda Lassiter Keen - crop of loblolly pines in the Conservation Reserve Program for almost 30 years.

Land Use

Residential, commercial, industrial, major developments, schools, conservation lands and parks, existing linear facilities, airports and managed lands



Almost mature loblolly pine forest

Land Cover

Forest woodland, mixed forest, grassland/pasture, fresh water urban development and urban residential



Lassiter Family Homeplace - settled by Elijah Lassiter (1762-1848)

Cultural Resources

Archaeological resources, historic resources, historic districts and cemeteries



Have seen and often hear woodpeckers, possibly Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers *

Natural Resources

State and federal rare, threatened and endangered species



Line would cross Elevation Road; splitting farm. Diagonal line placement

Visual Resources

View shed analysis

instead of following property lines or running parallel to highway



Area of lower elevation nearby that feeds into Gum Swamp. Line is very close to family pond. Concern w/ herbicides and fishing.

Water Resources

Wetlands, streams and floodplains



Approximate distances

- ① Parker 500-600 ft.
- ② Canady 700-800 ft.
- ③ Moore - close?

Occupied Buildings

Number of single-family residences in proximity of a proposed route



Safety/Reliability/Cost

Cancer incidence in relation to Linda L. Keen (partial list)

- Mother - breast
- Father - prostate
- Brother - Kidney
- Son - Childhood leukemia
- maternal aunt - breast
- maternal 1st cousin - breast
- maternal 1st cousin's daughter - breast + BRCA1+
- niece - BRCA1+

Familial cancer BRCA1 gene

Exposure concerns

- EMF
- Herbicides

* per the USDA forest website www.fs.fed.us one of the preferred habitats of the Red Cockaded woodpecker are loblolly pine.

Page Four — THE FOUR OAKS NEWS — Wednesday, March 9, 1983

Looking for the first La

LOOKING FOR THE FIRST LASSITERS

According to the census records and land records I have found Elijah Lassiter (1762-1848), a native of Northampton County, North Carolina and a soldier of the Revolution, was the founder of the Lassiter family which for almost 200 years has held land on the north side of Black Creek in what is now Elevation Township. Actually the Lassiter land also lies on the south side of Black Creek (the Shade Lassiter estate, the David Lassiter estate, the Charlie Lassiter estate, the Paul Lassiter estate and Tom Lassiter's land) and on the north side of Middle Creek (the Willis A. Lassiter farm).

By 1827 Elijah had purchased more than 1,500 acres reaching from Sassarixa Swamp where it joined the Olive land, up Black Creek and north across the Lassiter road and the Hunter Road to Middle Creek. I am aware that this is a general description, I have not made an effort to add land bought by Elijah's descendants. Today several other families hold land in the area. Several of them are a result of marriages into the Lassiter family.

FOOT AND FIELD RESEARCH

The figures and facts which can be mined from the courthouse and the library tell the story very well but there is another satisfaction in seeing how the land lies and talking with people who have lived on the family land all their lives and carry some history of their families in the memories of their childhood.

Sunday afternoon, Feb. 27, I went to visit Paul Langdon (son of James and Rebecca Lassiter Langdon) who has lived on the King Mill Pond Road for all but the first five years of his life. The question I put to him was, "Where are the oldest Lassiter cemeteries you know about?" The problem on which we actually worked was finding the homesites of the first Lassiters to settle the land. We knew that their houses were gone, looking for their graves seemed the most reasonable procedure. Generally a homesteader would pick a house site on a well drained hill near a spring and when death first struck his family he would start a cemetery on the highest hill near the house.

Four Oaks History

By

James Bryan Creech

Paul knew where the home of his grandfather William Henry Lassiter (1845-1918) stood, it was on the site of some tobacco barns near the rear of the James Langdon house, Paul's home until he built a new house nearby a few years ago. William Henry kilned brick from clay on the site to build the four chimneys and pillars of his house.

William Henry's father, Alfred Lassiter, (1823-1905) built his home by a natural spring at the rear of these houses. It was a little nearer Black Creek. Both of these houses are gone, the William Henry Lassiter house burned in the late 1920s. But there were two generations before William Henry and Alfred, William (1791-1874?) and the founder of the Johnston County tribes, Elijah (1762-1848). Where did they live and where are they buried? Nearby, I think. Somewhere among the Lassiters there may be someone who knows where Elijah settled in the late 1780s. If so, I will be glad to hear from you.

THE OLDEST LASSITER CEMETERY?

The oldest cemetery Paul remembers is on land owned by Terry Parker, land previously owned by Garnet Lassiter, Albert Lassiter (his father), John William Lassiter (his grandfather) and so on back by way of

ssiters near *Elevation*

Alfred to William to Elijah. The site of the cemetery is on a hill east of Paul Langdon's pond, less than a quarter mile from the rear of Russell Lassiter's home. The path which passes by the site continues to the "ball diamond field" and Black Creek. No trace of the old cemetery can now be found but Paul can remember the wooden markers and the plank houses which marked the graves in the 1920s. The plank houses which were built over the graves stood about four feet high, had gabled roofs and plank walls and were the size of the graves.

Not far south of this site was the Ligah Lassiter bridge which may have been the first bridge across Black Creek in this area. I assume that the bridge was named for Elijah Lassiter and if he built it, it was built before 1848. It seems likely to me that Elijah built his house in this vicinity probably near the cemetery. William, his oldest son, also must have lived nearby because it is known that Alfred and Joseph, sons of William, had their homes nearby. Alfred's home was on the Paul Langdon farm and Joseph's home was in the yard of the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Langdon. Joseph Lassiter, (1837-1904), Russell Lassiter's grandfather, and Joseph's wife, Martha Woodall Lassiter are buried in a small graveyard just southwest of the Russell Lassiter home on Lassiter Road. Graves in the Joseph Lassiter cemetery also had small plank houses built over them. These structures were removed in 1936 when James Lassiter, Joseph's son and Russell's father, died and was buried with his parents. About 1925, James built the large and fine house on Lassiter Road in which Russell now lives. James' first house was on the south side of Sassarixa near the home of the late

Jesse Lassiter (son of James).

WHERE DID THE FIRST LASSITERS LIVE?

I theorize that Elijah Lassiter built his house, raised his family, died and was buried on the land bounded by Black Creek, Black Creek Road, the northside of Sassarixa, King Pond Road and the branch which runs from the pond to Black Creek. I think William may have lived in the same area because three (perhaps more) of his children received land in the area or immediately adjoining. If there exists evidence which would more accurately locate the homes of Elijah and William Lassiter, his son, I will be glad to publish it here. Grover Langdon remembers that there was an old graveyard in a field near the Joseph Lassiter house which was in his (Grover's) yard, so there may have been Lassiters living north of Sassarixa before Joseph built there before the 1861-1865 War. Mrs. Grover Langdon is the former Iva Lassiter, granddaughter of Joseph Lassiter and daughter of James Lassiter.

WHO HAS THE PICTURES?

Publishing individual photographs in this column can be a problem because of space but I would like to borrow some group pictures of the first Lassiter families to be photographed. Are there family pictures of the John William Lassiters, the Joseph A. Lassiters, the Henry Lassiters, the Robert I. Lassiters, the Shadrack Lassiters (He was Robert I. Lassiter's father) and others including the Lassiter daughters and the families they produced? Pictures may be left at the Four Oaks News office. Please bring complete written identification of the individuals in the pictures, relevant dates and information as to marriages, careers and places of residence.

tribes1.jpg

The 12 Johnston County

The Twelve Tribes of Elijah Lassiter

Considering the fact that he was born 221 years ago and taking into account the fact that he was illiterate, a surprising amount of information is known about Elijah Lassiter, the founder of the Lassiter family in Johnston County. His father was James Lassiter Sr. of Northampton County. I have not found the name of his mother, Elijah, who was born in 1762, served two, three months hitches in the Revolutionary Army and in the course of that service twice marched from Smithfield to Cross Creek (Fayetteville). If he was marched along Green's Path or the Averasboro Road he walked over some of the land along Black Creek to which he returned to settle in the early 1790s. In the census of 1800 Elijah's family was the only Lassiter family in Johnston County.

Three facts I have not learned: the name of his wife (Perhaps he married before leaving Northampton County, I did not find a marriage record in the Courthouse), and exact location of his homeplace and the site of his grave. My first guess as to his homesite: the north side of Black Creek less than one mile upstream from the bridge at Pete Lassiter's. My second guess: the southwest side of Sassarixa less than one and a half miles upstream from where it passes under Black Creek Road near the Olive hill. The site of an old bridge (the "Ligah" Lassiter bridge) upstream from the present bridge and the site of a now gone cemetery on Terry Parker's land makes me favor a site on Terry's land or on Paul Langdon's homeplace. If someone knows exactly where Elijah cleared his first land and built his house I will be happy to publish the evidence. I also would like to know where William Lassiter (1791-1874), Elijah's oldest son, built his house and raised his family. I suspect William lived in the same general area, I know some of his children did.

Six Sons and Six Daughters

The most impressive crop which Elijah Lassiter produced on his 1,500 acres (chiefly pine woods) was 12

Four Oaks History

By

James Bryan Creech

children who survived to marry and establish families of their own. Whether he accomplished this with one wife or two I do not know. And I do not know the history of all his children but several of them lived long enough to produce large families.

The oldest son, William, who was born in 1791 married Lucy (Luvey or Lewey) Stephenson in 1813. William was the executor of his father's will in 1848. William's own family consisted of six sons and four daughters. They must wait for another installment in order to provide space here for Elijah's 12.

I do not know the exact order of birth of the other five sons but I will name them anyway. Jason married Thena H. Cotton in 1825. Jason and his family moved out of Johnston County, I think. They were gone before the 1840 census. Another possibility is that Jason died.

tribes2.jpg

Wednesday, March 16, 1983 — THE FOUR OAKS NEWS — Page Three

tribes of Elijah Lassiter

Shadrach Lassiter (born 1803) married Lucy Johnson in 1825. They remained on the Lassiter plantation and produced some of the Lassiter families who still live in the Lassiter community in Elevation Township. Shadrach does not appear in the 1870 census, he probably died before that time.

Elisha Lassiter married Obedience (Beedy) Carrell in 1827 and they too stayed on the Lassiter land. James Lassiter married Lucy Lockhart and they established the Lassiter line from which come The Smithfield Herald Lassiters, the Bentonville Lassiters and others.

Elijah Lassiter Jr. married Mary (Polly) Tomlinson of Johnston County in 1826 and they moved to Pike County, Ala. So did Elijah Jr.'s sister Sally. So there are in Alabama some Lassiters who have hundreds of relatives in Johnston County today. Other Johnston County families also moved to Alabama in the early 1800's

And Six Daughters

Elijah's six daughters married men with Johnston County names and probably settled in southern Johnston County with the exception of Sarah (Sally) who married Solomon Whittenton and moved with her husband and her brother, Elijah Jr. and his wife to Pike County, Ala. Elijah Jr. and Sarah (still in Alabama) appointed D.R. Whittenton of Johnston County as their attorney to collect their part of Elijah Sr.'s estate at his

death in 1848.

Elijah Sr.'s daughter, Lucy, married James Johnson. Penelope married George Stephenson. Tabitha married George Johnson. Patsy married John Carrol and Mary married Gideon Woodall.

Thus were established 12 families from Elijah Lassiter, the first of his name to settle in Johnston County. I do not plan in this series of articles to trace all of these lines. Readers who recognize here some of their folks can track them into this century by visiting the courthouse and the Johnston County Room in the Smithfield library. I do intend to continue with some of these lines until I connect them with some living Lassiters. Those I choose are not to be considered more important than their kin. Knowing it is impossible to do a professional genealogy given my expertise, time and newspaper space, I choose to follow the lines of some of the Lassiters I know including some who came to live in Four Oaks.

If there be among our gentle readers some who are working on a Lassiter family tree, I gladly will show you the unorganized notes which I have collected. I repeat, I do not have any information which cannot be found in the courthouse or the county library. But I will be glad to talk to you, especially if you will bring me some Lassiter family pictures more than 50 years old.

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Oct 26 2017

Page Four — THE FOUR OAKS NEWS — Wednesday, March 9, 1983

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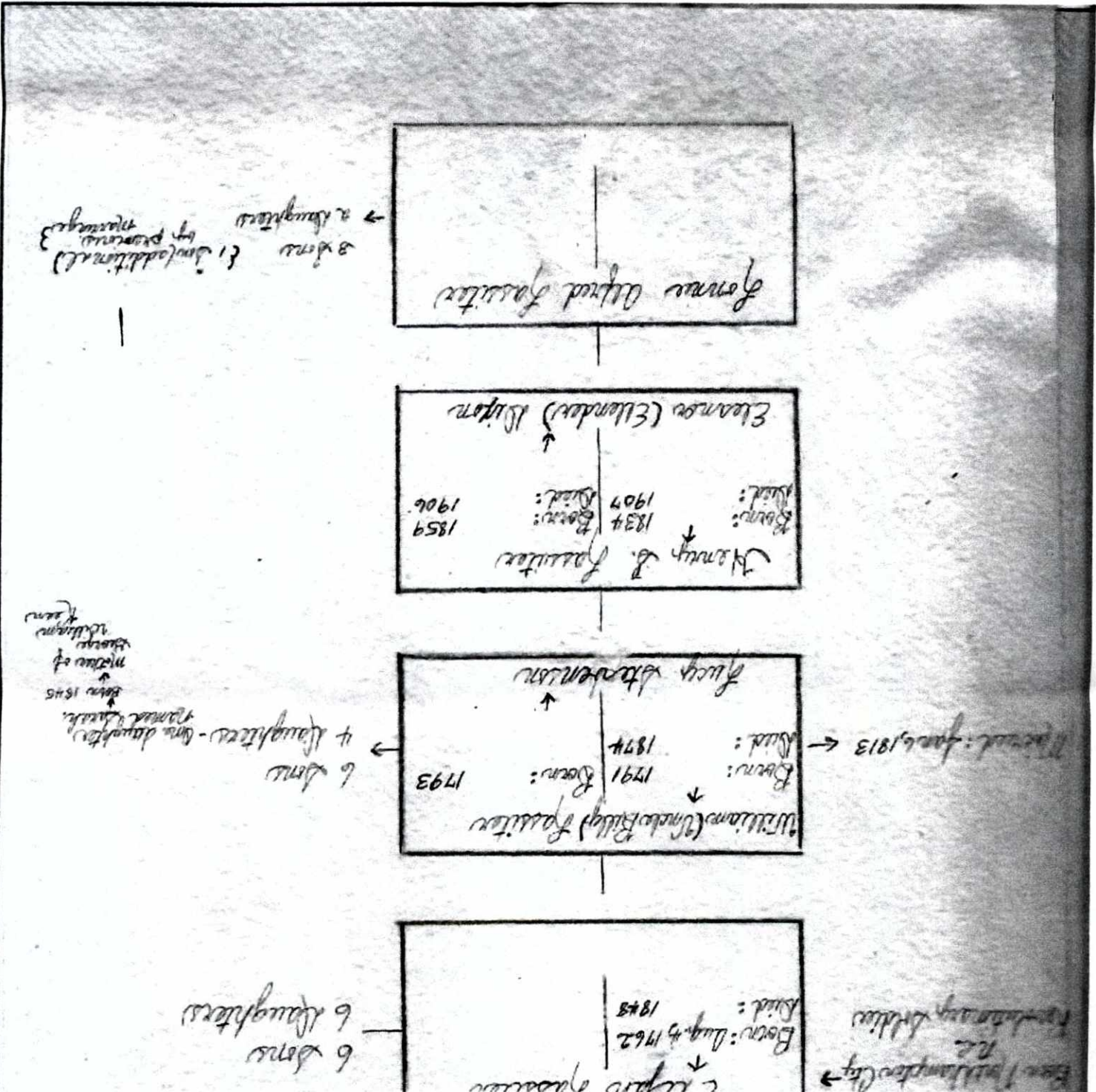
Married: July 3, 1966

Russell Lewis Klen
 Born Aug. 19, 1943 Res. Dec. 5, 1942
 Linda Lee Hassiter

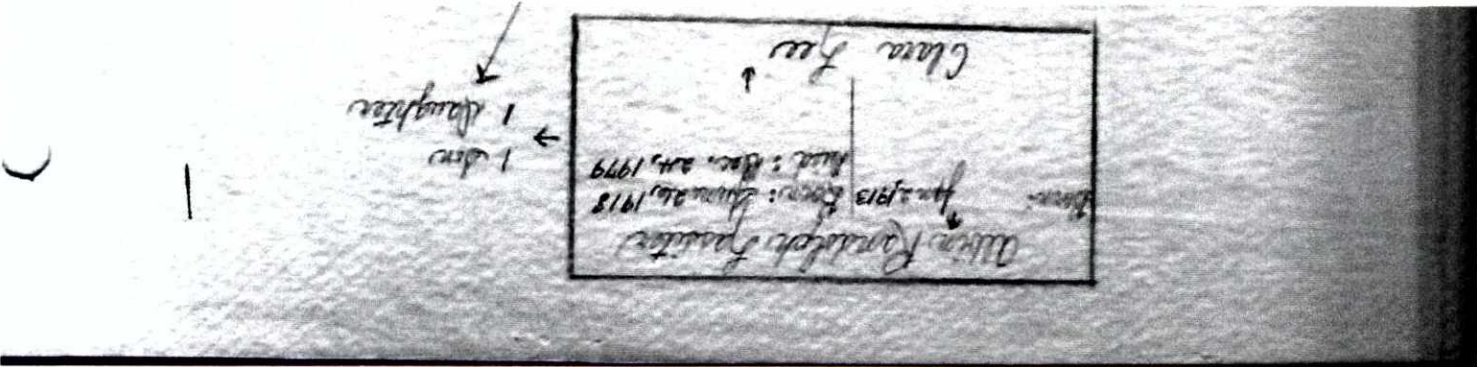
1 Son -- Philip Russell Klen
 1 Daughter -- Beanna Lee Klen

Throughout book red underlines denotes direct descendant of Linda
 Lee Hassiter Klen. Blue underlines denotes direct descendant of
 Russell Lewis Klen.

William (Uncle Billy) Hassiter & Mary Stevenson had a daughter named
 Sarah (born 1845). She was the mother of George William Klen. George
 married Adelia, daughter of James O. Hassiter, Jr., Granddaughter of
 Virginia Elder James O. Hassiter, Great grand daughter
 of Elijah Hassiter



familytree2.jpg



Wednesday, February 23, 1983 — THE FOUR OAKS NEWS — Page Three

's from Johnston County

teville. Crossed the Yadkin at Shallow Ford and then took down the Pee Dee River in the State of South Carolina to — Ferry — near which place an engagement took place between the American and British forces — that here the American army was commanded by Gen. Gates — and defeated.

At the ferry this deponent was taken seriously ill and was confined by sickness to his bed for five weeks and five days — that after his recovery so as to be able to travel he returned home — That he returned home in September and he well recollects having received a paper from some of the officers but who he has forgotten for he is an illiterate man certifying his having served 3 months.

He was not however in the engagement where Gen. Gates was defeated because of his serious illness — but he heard the report of the guns when in his bed.

He remained at home for nearly two years. He was again drafted for another 3 months service — that his Company met at the Town of Halifax on the 1st day of July in either 1780 or 1781 — where Joel Sherwood took Command as Captain of the Company and Elijah Dougherty was Lieutenant — several other companies met at the same place and time — and they as well as his own Company were commanded by Major Hogg — that they marched from Halifax to Smithfield — then to Cross Creek which is now the Town of Fayetteville — then by Duplin Court House down to the Town of Wilmington — that they remained about a fortnight or three weeks at Cross Creek for the purpose of giving check to the forces who were there and had been previously committing great depredations upon the private property of the inhabitants — their object in marching to Wilmington was to meet the British army at that

place — but just before they reached that place the British took shipping — that they remained at Wilmington until they received intelligence of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis — when this deponent and his company with a few others marched back to Tarborough — where he with his Company received a discharge — that this last tour was for three months — his term of service for his country embracing altogether a period of 6 months.

He makes oaths that he has never received a pension for this service either from the State Government or the U. States Government.

Elijah Lassiter came into Court and after having the above Declaration for a pension read over to him in the presence of the Court makes oath that the facts therein set forth are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

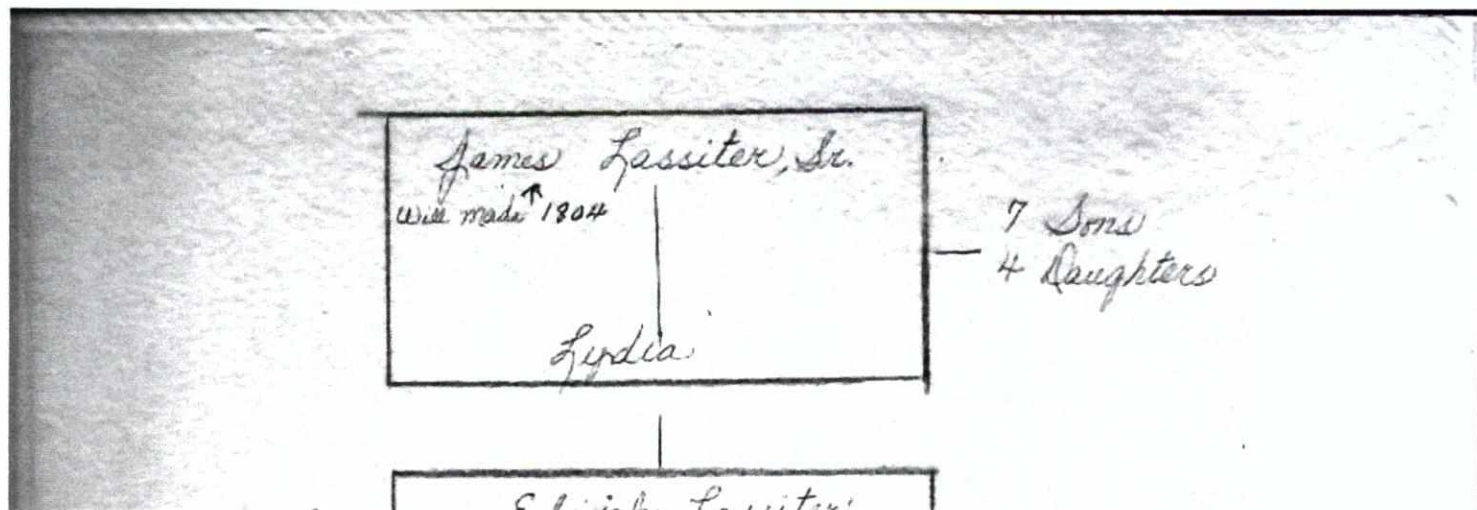
R.M. Sanders, Clerk

Elijah his mark X Lassiter

In 1800 the family of Elijah Lassiter was the only Lassiter family in the county. At least three other Lassiter men held land in the county before 1800. They were residents of other counties; George Lassiter from Duplin County and George Lassiter Jr. from Sampson County. Robert Lassiter who held a 1759 grant (his records are in the State Archives) must have resided outside the county also, he does not appear in the census.

Why did Elijah Lassiter move from Northampton County to Johnston County after the Revolution? My guess is that he gave the land along Black Creek a good looking over as he marched across it twice in two years and decided he liked the looks of it. By 1827 he owned more than 1,500 acres chiefly lying between Black and Middle Creeks.

familytree1.jpg



Some of the first Lassiter

THE FIRST JOHNSTON COUNTY LASSITERS

The first Lassiter which I can connect with the Lassiter families of Black Creek is Elijah Lassiter who was born in Northampton County in 1762. Since Northampton County is in northeastern North Carolina on the Virginia border it is probable that the family of James Lassiter Sr. (Elijah's father) came from the eastern shore of Virginia. It is a pattern of migration which was followed by several of the first families of Johnston County just after the Revolution.

In his will made in 1804 James Lassiter Sr. named as heirs his wife, Lydia, seven sons, Shadrack, Elias, Greene, Elijah, James, Kinchen and Jordan and four daughters, Penelope, Henretty, Abigail and Reiniford. It was Elijah who came to Johnston County after the Revolution, settled on Black Creek in what is now Elevation Township and started the Lassiter family which still inhabits much of that part of Johnston County.

Elijah Tells His Story Firsthand

Although he was illiterate and signed his name with an 'X' Elijah left a firsthand account of his early life. On the 25th of February 1834 Elijah Lassiter made an appearance in the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Johnston County and swore to the following deposition. Elijah was about 71 at the time and he had forgotten some names and dates and he no longer had the papers to prove his military service but he told what he did for the new country in the Great Revolution and qualified for the benefits of the Pension Act of 1832. Elijah's deposition tells something about the life of a young soldier in the Revolution as well as some Lassiter family history so it is copied below in its entirety.

State of North Carolina

Johnston County

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions

February 1834

For this day the 25th of February 1834 Elijah Lassi-

Four Oaks History

By

James Bryan Creech

ter, a soldier of the Revolution, born 4th of August 1762, aged 71 years, makes his appearance in open Court — the Justice of said Court being present — and deposes to the following facts in order to entitle himself to the benefit of the Pension Act of 1832.

That he is at present a resident of the County of Johnston and has been for nearly fifty years having removed to this County from Northampton County N. Carolina where he was born — that he has a record of his age now in his possession — that in the year 1778 or 1779 when he was in his sixteenth or seventeenth year he was drafted in the Militia of this State — that his company rendezvoused at the Wingfield Courthouse as it is called on the 8th day of — 1778 or 1779 where he joined the Regiment under the command of General Caswell — that a Captain Peterson had the command of his company — that the term for which he was drafted was 3 months — and that he faithfully served through this term — that he with his company and the Regiment commanded by General Caswell, who went along in person, marched from the place of Rendezvous to Smithfield, Johnston County, where they remained for a week or ten days — they then marched across the Cape Fear River above what is now the Town of Fayette-

Things that were done
right in this project:
(Hartford)

- Short route
- parallel a road
- 10 events provided landowners and community members the opportunity to give detailed input to the project team.
- Company presented two tower structure options

why: because it would have disrupted businesses, ruin the mainly rural appearance of the countryside and disrupt watersheds and wildlife habitat.

Final route selected for controversial power line project through part of northern Harford



By Allan Vought
The Aegis

OCTOBER 18, 2017, 12:55 PM

Transource Energy has announced the routes that it will file with state regulators in Maryland and Pennsylvania for its Independence Energy Connection high voltage overhead electric transmission line project that has sparked community opposition in Harford County and neighboring York County, Pa.

The company had been looking for several routes to connect a new electric switching substation planned near the Susquehanna River in York County with the existing Conastone switching station near Norrisville in Harford County, a distance of about 16 miles. A similar connection is planned between switching facilities in south central Pennsylvania and Washington County, Md., near Smithsburg, about 29 miles.

The final proposed Harford County route unveiled by Transource Monday parallels Route 23 to the west for about 3 miles from the state line to Conastone Station.

Transource was contracted by PJM Interconnection, the regional power grid operator for the affected the area, to build the \$320 million project.

In a news release, Transource stated that PJM identified the need for the infrastructure upgrade "to alleviate congestion on the high-voltage electric grid and benefit customers in the region, including parts of Pennsylvania and Maryland."

Steve Herling, vice president of planning for PJM, which operates the power distribution grid for 65 million people in 13 states and the District of Columbia, stated in a recent letter to The Aegis that the grid operator "performed extensive analysis of this highly congested area where limitations to move electricity efficiently have been a chronic problem."

"This solution is the most reliable and cost effective and will save consumers millions in the long run," Herling wrote of the IEC.

But opponents on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line that forms the border between northern Harford and southern York counties, have challenged both the need for the project and why Transource is not following existing power line routes.

"There have been no published studies to determine if the energy that is to be sent over the new transmission power line towers can be accommodated by the use of existing lines and towers," Norrisville resident Aimee C. O'Neill wrote in a letter published by The Aegis last month.

O'Neill, who could not be reached for comment Tuesday, is co-chair of a group formed this summer to oppose the project called Stop Transource Power Lines MD.

Harford County opponents who have spoken out publicly about the project, many of them landowners, say the proposed power lines will disrupt businesses and ruin the mainly rural appearance of the countryside and disrupt watersheds and wildlife habitat.

Opponents also say they believe some properties in agricultural preservation programs will be negatively affected by the new power lines.

Stop Transource Power Lines MD plan to hold an informational meeting Wednesday evening at Pond View Farm in White Hall to discuss the final power line route announcement and what steps to take next.

O'Neill and others in the organization have been critical of what they say has been a lack of interest among elected officials concerning the impact of the project, although the northern Harford area's County Council representative, Chad Shrodes, has worked closely with the opponents all summer. The area's state legislators also have attended one or more of the community meetings this summer.

The opposition group also has worked through the Jarrettsville/Norrisville Community Advisory Board to inform Harford County residents about the project and the reasons for its opposition.

Transource hosted two community information meetings about the project in Harford County over the summer, the last in Norrisville in August, which was attended by nearly 200 people.

The company stated in its news release that it presented more than 250 miles of route options in the east and west segments of the IEC project for review.

"The 10 events provided landowners and community members the opportunity to give detailed input to the project team," the news release states. "All submitted input was incorporated into determining the final proposed routes."

"Transource worked to balance the public input with a variety of factors such as existing land use, sensitive species and habitats, soils and topography, historic and cultural resources and the opportunity to parallel existing infrastructure," the release continues.

The company also stated that in addition to routing options, it presented two tower structure options — lattice or monopole. The majority of comments received supported the monopole option, according to the company, and that is what it will use, "except in areas where engineering or construction needs dictate another structure type."

"By including community members in the siting process, rather than engaging them after decisions were made, we were able to consider and accommodate many landowner requests," said Todd Burns, Transource director, in a statement.

"The input gathered over the last few months was a critical component of our decision-making process," Burns continued. "We are confident that the route selection strikes the balance between building the required infrastructure that powers our homes and economy, while respecting land use and the environment in these communities. We look forward to continuing to work with these communities as an engaged partner as we move forward with the regulatory approval phase of the project."

Transource said it is directly notifying involved landowners, as well as people who have been part of the community input process.

The project and the final routes for the power lines must still be approved by the Maryland Public Service Commission and the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission. Transource said it plans to file applications with both by the end of the year.

Construction of the IEC is expected to begin in 2019, with a project in-service date of mid-2020, the company said.

Additional information can be found on the project website at www.TransourceEnergy.com/Projects/Independence.

Mr. Christopher J. Ayers
Executive Director Public Staff
4326 Mail Service Center
Raleigh NC 27699 - 4300

Kimberly Canada
919-796-9253