

## The Forefathers of North Carolina Pioneer Andreas Killian

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New Sub-chapter

### Andreas Kilian's will and estate papers

It was not the usual practice for a testator to write his own will. Wills were typically written by someone other than the testator, usually one of the witnesses to a will. In the case of Andreas Kilian's will, it was probably written by Joseph Steel. In some instances, the testator was too infirm, due to age or illness, to write his name and instead a mark was made, even though in his earlier life he was capable of writing his own name. In the case of Andreas Kilian, he did sign his name at the bottom of the will.

Estate papers are the loose papers generated during probate. An index to estate papers held by the North Carolina Archives was prepared in 1998. No estate file for either Andrew or Mary Killian was found at that time. A second survey of estate papers was published in 2000-2001. Again, no estate file for Andrew or Mary Killian was found.

In addition to the loose papers generated during an estate probate, the Clerk of County Court maintained a set of bound volumes in which he entered probate items. The volume dated 1787-1812 has been lost. It was available in 1960, but has since disappeared from the county courthouse.

**References:** *Grace Williamson Turner, "Index to Lincoln County Estates Papers," Bulletin of the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, May 1998 issue, Killian surname, p. 62.*

*Miles H. Philbeck, "Abstracts of Lincoln County, N.C., Pre-1800 Estates, Bulletin of the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, series May 2001-May 2003*

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