

County was taxed in 1777 and again in 1781.³² He was likely born about 1750 and seemed to have settled and stayed in Fauquier. He probably would not have moved into Rockingham and married in 1794. Although it's possible that Moses Norman came from Fauquier County, researching did not prove a specific connection.

Joseph Norman of Culpeper County, Virginia

Research next moved to Culpeper County, Virginia, where the name of Isaac Norman was found to be present in records from 1726 to 1800. Because a probate record could reveal information about the ancestor, Moses Norman, and a possible father for him, will abstracts were first searched for Culpeper County. No mention of Moses was found, but a promising will dated 1783 was located for a Joseph Norman.³³ In the will, Joseph named a son, Isaac, and a grandson, Isaac. Could this grandson be the Isaac Norman who was present in Rockingham County, Virginia? The time frame is plausible. The will abstract names the children of Joseph, his wife, Sarah, and the witnesses.

Will book B 1770-1783

Will of Joseph Norman 20 Nov 1783, proven 16 Feb 1784

- Legatees: Wife Sarah Norman
- Sons: Thomas, John (a minor), William, James.
- Grandson Isaac Norman. Sarah Norman, wife of my son Isaac Norman
- Daughters: Mary Dillard, Winifred Bywater, Peggy Calvert, Sally Norman, Fanny Norman, Mimey (?) Norman, Kisiah Norman
- Executors: wife Sarah Norman, Thomas Norman.
- Witnesses: John Triplett, Thomas Norman Fanny Norman

Analyzing the names of the heirs of Joseph Norman, it was noticed that some of the names were also present in the household of the ancestral Moses and Mary (Higgins) Norman: William, John, Isaac, and Mary. Naming patterns are strong evidence of a family relationship and could prove a connection along with other records. Although there were no men named "Moses Norman" in Culpeper County, this doesn't preclude the possibility. The name, Moses, could have come from his mother's line. Continued research in the county could discover a connection.

³² Ibid.

³³ Dorothy Ford Wulfeck, *Culpeper County, Virginia, Will Books Band C, Court Suits, Loose papers, Inscriptions* (Naugatuck, Connecticut : D.F. Wulfeck, 1965), 57. **Document 13**

In his will, Joseph Norman named his “grandson Isaac Norman” and “Sarah Norman, wife of my son Isaac Norman” implying that his son, Isaac, had preceded his father in death. A probate record for the Inventory and Appraisal of the estate of Isaac Norman was recorded at the county courthouse on 17 February 1777 and probably refers to Isaac, the son of Joseph Norman.³⁴ Because no will is on record for this Isaac Norman, he likely died intestate, meaning without a will. The probate records would be comprised of the appraisal, inventory, and settlement of the estate if he owned property.

One hypothesis for the father of the ancestor, Moses Norman, is that he was the son of Isaac and Sarah Norman, and the brother of the Isaac Norman named as a grandson of Joseph Norman in the 1783 will. With an estimated birth year of 1770-1780, Moses would fit with this family. With their father deceased, when the young men came of age after about 1790, perhaps they moved on to Rockingham County, Virginia where they were named in the tax, marriage, and court records from 1794-1796 as discussed previously.

Another probate record, also for the Inventory and Appraisal of the estate of an Isaac Norman was dated 17 October 1791 and probably refers to yet another Isaac Norman.³⁵ This Isaac Norman could have also been the father of Moses Norman. Continued study in the records of Culpeper County could reveal additional relationships.

117 pounds
LEROY CANADAY.
At a Court held for Culpeper County the 17th day April 1792
This Inventory of the Estate of Richard Quinn decd was returned into Court and ordered
to be recorded.

p. Pursuant to an Order of Culpeper Court to us directed bearing date October 17th
43 1791 We the Subscribers being first sworn have appraised all the Estate of ISAAC
NORMAN deceased which hath been brought before our view .. items listed and
valued to total 262 pounds 2/0 .. (includes four negroes appraised to 230 pounds 0/0) ..
made by appraisers W. BRADLEY, ROBT. STROTHER, JAMES LONG.
At a Court held for Culpeper County 17th day April 1792
This Inventory of the Estate of Isaac Norman decd was this day returned into Court and
ordered to be recorded.

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN
1 State of Vir-

³⁴ Online Catalog, Probate for Isaac Norman, 1777, Will Book B, 1770-1783, Culpeper Co. VA, *Library of Virginia*. **Document 14**

³⁵ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Will Abstracts of Culpeper County 1791-1803, Virginia, vol D.*, (McLean, Virginia : R. & S. Sparacio, 1988), 14. **Document 15**

Isaac Norman, Original Settler of Culpeper County, Virginia

Land and tax records can hold clues to an individual's actions and both record collections were searched for the Norman individuals of Culpeper County. No record naming Moses Norman was discovered, but the land records revealed that the earliest Norman to settle in the Culpeper area was another Isaac Norman, and the namesake of the later "Isaac Normans."

He was granted land in Spotsylvania County, now Culpeper County, in 1726 and 1728. The 1726 grant contained 420 acres in the fork of the Rappahannock.³⁶ The 1728 grant contained 634 acres also in the fork of the Rappahannock.³⁷ Isaac is the earliest ancestor of the Culpeper County Normans and the map below shows an approximate location for this land.³⁸



Figure 12 Map of Virginia, 1720

In the 1700s Culpeper was one of the larger counties in Virginia. Located in the rolling hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, it was drained by the Rappahannock and other rivers. By the mid-1700s, the population of Virginia was growing along the coastal plains and plans were made to survey and grant the land further inland. Large counties were created in this area and were gradually divided into smaller counties as the land was settled. After the Revolutionary War the population continued to grow.

³⁶ Online Catalog, Isaac Norman, grantee 30 June 1726, Spotsylvania Co VA, *Library of Virginia*. **Document 16**

³⁷ Online Catalog, Isaac Norman, grantee 28 September 1728, Spotsylvania Co VA, *Library of Virginia*. **Document 17**

³⁸ Johann Baptist Hoffman, "Virginia, Marylandia et Carolina," (Nuremberg, 1720); *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<https://www.davidrumsey.com> : accessed 1 Apr 2019).

Culpeper County was rural and dependent upon agriculture. The Blue Ridge Mountains separated the settlers from the wilderness and as the trickle of western migration began, Moses Norman would have joined others seeking new lands in the west.

Researching original settler, Isaac Norman, no probate was discovered naming his heirs, but many of the land records after his initial land grants reference him. The later deeds often give a history of the land and description such as: “a large tract of land patented by Isaac Norman, deceased, in 1728 and conveyed to his son, Joseph Norman.”³⁹ This Joseph Norman was the same individual who named Sarah, wife of his son Isaac, and grandson Isaac.

Courtney Norman

Besides original settler, Isaac Norman, and his son, Joseph Norman, another individual was discovered in the records of Culpeper County – Courtney Norman. He was probably another son of original settler, Isaac Norman. Courtney left a will dated 14 March 1770 where he names his sons and daughters.⁴⁰ Any of the sons of Courtney Norman could have been the father of the ancestor, Moses Norman. As noted previously, Moses named sons John and William, an indication that there could be a connection with this group of Normans.

Will book B 1770-1783

Will of Courtney Norman of Brumphill Parish, 14 March 1770, proven 20 Aug 1770

Wife, Mary Norman

Sons: John Norman, Courtney Norman, Reuben, Benjamin, Ezeckiel, William

Daughter Amey Murphy

Witnesses: Edwin Hickman, James Hickman, Joseph Boggess

Whether Moses Norman was the grandson of Courtney Norman or Joseph Norman, it is highly probable that the original settler, Isaac Norman, was his great-grandfather. The original land granted to Isaac Norman had been divided by his numerous descendants and the young Moses Norman likely opted to seek his fortune in the west. He joined the western migration along with thousands of others seeking his own land.

³⁹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Deed Abstracts of Culpeper County, Virginia (1769-1773)* (McLean, Virginia : R. & S. Sparacio, 1988) p. 64; referencing Deed Book F, pp 398-400, deed for Joseph and Sarah Norman, 1771. **Document 18**

⁴⁰ Dorothy Ford Wulfeck, *Culpeper County, Virginia, Will Books Band C, Court Suits, Loose papers, Inscriptions* (Naugatuck, Connecticut : D.F. Wulfeck, 1965), 1,2. **Document 19**