

## Chapter 7 – Miss Burroughson [Brownson]

In genealogical research, undocumented or anecdotal evidence is oftentimes the only proof available to a researcher. This fact seems particularly true in the case of “Miss Burroughson”, the purported first wife of Richard Bostick. Patti Major Bostick, compiler of Chips Of The Old Block, cited Jane Maner Lawton Bostick (or indirectly her son, Rev. Edward May Bostick Jr.) as the source of the information pertaining to “Miss Burroughson from Savannah, Georgia” having been the first wife of Richard Bostick. It would seem that Jane Maner Lawton Bostick was the earliest, if not the only known source for “Miss Burroughson”, as no earlier source for Miss Burroughson's identity has heretofore been discovered. It must be assumed that Jane Maner Lawton Bostick knew of these facts about Miss Burroughson through family lore, since these events occurred almost 150 years and four generations before Edward May Bostick's birth, and no physical evidence was offered. This supposed marriage between Richard Bostick and Miss Burroughson would have occurred around 1783-5 and Patti Major recorded the event in 1959, an interval of about 175 years.

Use of family lore as a research tool is perfectly acceptable so long as it is duly identified as such and treated accordingly. For example depositions and affidavits are routinely admitted into evidence in legal proceedings and are frequently given probative value comparable to physical evidence. Yet depositions and affidavits are not very different from anecdotal utterances, since they are both based in large part on the recollection and memory of the affiant, deponent or testator. Consequently, it has been assumed by Patti Majors and others that the facts surrounding the existence of Miss Burroughson were true to the best knowledge and recollection of Jane Maner Lawton Bostick. However, we do not know the exact form in which that information was conveyed to Patti Major Bostick, whether it was via a written document or was provided orally. The mode of communication could be quite important since oral communications are subject to the phonetic nuances of the English language, and the potential for misinterpretation is high. But, this may be a moot point since it might be presumed that Jane Maner Lawton Bostick, herself, came by the information through repeated oral communications down through the generations. In this light it is easy to see how the name “Burroughson” might be misinterpreted over time and become corrupted into something quite different by the time it was passed on to Patti Major Bostick.

From the very outset of this research into Miss Burroughson, the spelling of this surname became suspect. A quick check of United States and British census records disclosed the rarity of the Burroughson surname. No instance of the Burroughson surname, nor any rational variation on the spelling, could be found anywhere in U.S. census records. There were less than 60 instances of the Borrowson, Barrowson and Burroughson surnames in British vital records between 1600 and 1900, which suggests that it was very unlikely anyone by that surname or close variation ever reached American soil.

Other variations that were considered included: Burrison, Burrason, Burroson, Burrowson, etc. Even similar surnames without the “son” ending were considered. While there are numerous instances of Burrows, Burroughs, Burras, Burris, Burrus, etc. in America, there were virtually no such families to be found in or around Beaufort District South Carolina or Savannah, Georgia in the last half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Consequently, this research focused its attention toward other

surnames with phonetic or graphic similarities to Burroughson. The names identified for further analysis included the following: Burrington, Burson, Broughton, Burleson, Borquin, Burroughs/Burroson, and lastly, Brownson, Brunson and Bronson. Each of these surnames was found to have had at least a limited level of connection to the Beaufort area in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. From the author's perspective, of the surnames identified for further analysis, Burrington, Burleson and Brownson/Bronson/Brunson held the closest phonetic and/or cursive similarity to Burroughson. For a variety of reasons all other surnames were eliminated from consideration, except for Brownson. There was a Thomas Burrington, attorney at law, who held a tract on the swamp between the Connochee and Great Ogechee within relatively close proximity to the tract granted to Valentine Bostick. However, it is known with a fairly high degree of certainty that Thomas Burrington had only one daughter named Elizabeth. Consequently, Thomas Burrington was eliminated from further consideration as the possible father of Mary Hannah "Burroughson". Also, there was one instance of a descendant of the Burleson family having lived in Beaufort District. However, Daniel Burleson's presence was almost 50 years after the 1<sup>st</sup> marriage of Richard Bostick. Consequently, eventually the Burleson surname had to be eliminated from further consideration, leaving only the surname of Brownson/Bronson/Brunson as the most likely candidate for "Miss Burroughson". Anyone interested in the analyses performed on the other surnames is directed to Appendix A. Following is the detailed investigation of the Brownson surname and the basis for concluding that it was the probable source of "Miss Burroughson".

### **Dr. Nathan Brownson, M.D.**

Nathan Brownson was the sixth of ten children born to Timothy Brownson and Abigail Jenner listed in order of birth as follows:

1. Huldah, b. 22May1733, m. Andrew Squire
2. Amos, b. Jun1732
3. Timothy Jr., b. 25Aug1734,
4. Richard, b. 3May1737, Dr.
5. Gideon, b. 4Oct1739, m. Cornelia White 16Apr1761
6. **Nathan**, b. 14May1742
7. Elizabeth, b. 17Mar1744, d. 8Aug1761
8. Asa, b. 30Mar1745
9. Eli, b. ~1748
10. Perhaps Abigail, b. ~1750

The first seven children are known to have been born in Litchfield County near Woodbury, Connecticut, as their births were recorded in the Congregational church register at Woodbury. The last three children are reported by many researchers to have been born at Salisbury, Connecticut, although the author was unable to find actual records of those later births. The earliest records the author was able to find of any members of this Brownson family in Salisbury are listed as follows:

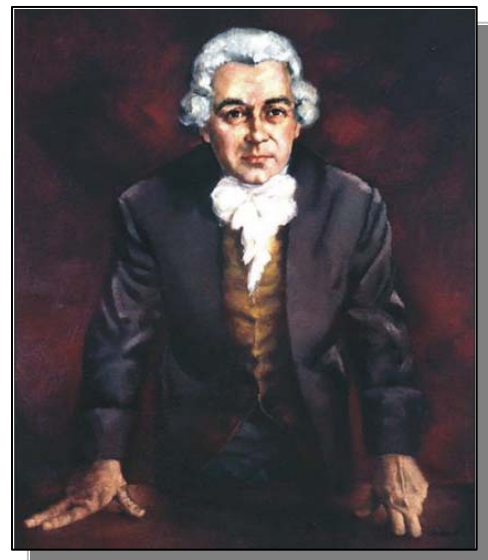


Figure 7-1  
Portrait of Dr. Nathan Brownson by  
George Mandus, Circa 1782

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- 8Aug1761 - Elizabeth Brownson, daughter of Timothy and Abigail, died in her 18<sup>th</sup> year.
- 16Apr1761 - Gideon Brownson and Cornelia White, both of Salisbury, married by J. Lee.
- 16Feb1762 - Elizabeth Brownson, born to Timothy Jr. and Hannah.
- 22Mar1762 – Isaac Brownson, born to Gideon and Cornelia
- 3Sep1763 – Timothy Brownson, born to Gideon and Cornelia.<sup>1</sup>

Many different sources report that Timothy and Abigail Brownson moved their family from Woodbury to Salisbury sometime between 1744 and 1745. The colonial vital statistic records of Salisbury purport to be fairly complete, yet the author could find no record of the births of the last three children of this family. Consequently, the author cannot attest to the whereabouts of this Brownson family between 1744 and 1761, those years marking the birth and death of Elizabeth Brownson, reported in Woodbury and Salisbury, respectively. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, the author is inclined to accept that the Timothy Brownson family did reside in Salisbury Connecticut between 1744/5 and Timothy's death at Salisbury in 1766. Assuming this to have been the case, then it would follow that Nathan Brownson's "home town" from about the age of three years until he graduated Yale University in 1761 would have been Salisbury.

Many researchers contend that Nathan Brownson returned to Woodbury Connecticut following graduation from Yale in 1761 where he reportedly entered an apprenticeship with a local Doctor, and lived and practiced medicine in that same community until his removal to Georgia sometime between 1765 and 1774. The author has found one record which would suggest that those reports about returning to Woodbury may be incorrect:

"Rehoboth, Massachusetts, 1Sep1768 – Betsey Brownson, dau. of Dr. Nathan and Sophia"<sup>2</sup>

The foregoing birth record was almost certainly for the daughter of Dr. Nathan Brownson, who will be discussed in depth later in this chapter under the identity of Elizabeth Brownson, wife of Charles Jones. With the discovery of this birth record, several critical questions about Dr. Brownson can now be answered:

1. Nathan had completed his apprenticeship and was working as a practicing physician in Rehoboth, MA by Sep1768,
2. The name of Nathan's first wife was Sophia (Inu), and not Abigail Lewis as posited by most Nathan Brownson researchers and biographers, and
3. Elizabeth was born at Rehoboth, MA on 1Sep1768, not in 1765 as might be suggested by her grave marker inscription at Magnolia Cemetery, Augusta, GA.

Now, having located Dr. Nathan Brownson in Rehoboth, Massachusetts in 1768, what more might be learned or surmised:

"Bliss, James, M.D., son of Daniel and Sarah (Allen) Bliss, born in Rehoboth, 19Apr1757; studied medicine with **Doctors Brownson [Nathan]** and [Pentecost] Blackinton; married Hannah Guild...He was prominent in the affairs of the Congregational Society..."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Historical Collection of the Salisbury Association, Inc., Volume I, 1913, p. 36.

<sup>2</sup> Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988, Ancestry.com.

<sup>3</sup> A History of Rehoboth, Massachusetts: Its History for 275 Years, 1643-1918, Rev. George H. Tilton, A.M., 1918, p. 322.

The foregoing asserts that James Bliss studied under Dr. Brownson (presumably Nathan) and Dr. Blackinton (presumably Pentecost). Typically, a medical apprenticeship would not commence until about the age of 16, and lasted upwards of three to four years. The following quotation is offered to provide a glimpse into the state of medicine in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century in the New England colonies and the process by which a person received the training necessary to qualify for the practice of medicine:

“When the first physicians who had received their collegiate training at Yale appear upon the scene early in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, the state of medicine in this country had not advanced materially beyond the primitive condition of the early colonial days. We encounter, as in the early history of medicine everywhere, three classes of medical practitioners: the priest-physician, the regular physician educated and practicing according to the recognized standards of the day, and the empiric or charlatan. What Cotton Mather called “the angelical conjunction” of the cure of the soul and of the body was to be found most frequently, and in its best type in New England. Here the regular training of physicians was almost wholly by apprenticeship for three or four years to some practitioner of repute. As vividly described by a Connecticut physician; “the candidate ‘served his time,’ as it was then called, which was divided between books on the shelf, and the skeleton in the closet, the pestle and pill-slab in the back room, roaming the forests and fields for roots and herbs, and following, astride of the colt he was breaking, the horse which was honored with the saddlebags... During this century only two graduates of Yale College (John A. Graham, Yale 1768, and Winthrop Saltonstall, Yale 1793) had received a medical degree in course. With the exception of a law passed in New York in 1760, and a similar one in New Jersey in 1772, there was no effective legislative control of medical practice in any of the colonies. Anyone who chose could practice, and the root doctors and Indian doctors of Connecticut had their counterparts elsewhere.”<sup>4</sup>

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century roughly 10% of Yale graduates became physicians. There was a marked transition in the nature of “medicine” being dispensed by these Doctors from almost entirely of the “priest-physician” or “palliative or spiritual care” class in the first two decades to only about 25% in the next three decades, to almost 100% of the “regular physician” or “practicing physician” class in the last half of the century. This transition was deduced from a study of the type of degree held by the persons who became physicians, i.e., degrees in divinity vs. arts and science.

College or university degrees were not an absolute prerequisite for studying medicine. Someone with a fundamental grasp of reading and writing, and a quick mind and aptitude toward learning could seek out a practicing physician under which to study medicine. If one assumes that Nathan Brownson had the good fortune of finding such a willing and agreeable practicing physician upon graduating Yale in 1761, he may have been prepared to enter upon an independent practice by as early as 1764. Marriage during an apprenticeship was discouraged, but it was normal for marriage to follow not long after completion of the prescribed time. We have no information as to where Nathan “served his time”, but it may very well have been in or near Rehoboth. In the decades prior to the Revolution, Rehoboth was the most populous township in the Massachusetts colony, even eclipsing Boston, and there were proposals floated to designate Rehoboth the capital of the colony. It is known that Dr. Brownson was in South Carolina by 1772 (more on this later). If James Bliss “studied” with Dr. Brownson in Rehobeth, then he would have started at a very young age, or his time with Dr. Brownson would have been rather abbreviated.

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<sup>4</sup> Yale Medical Journal, Volume 8, “The Relation of Yale to Medicine”, William Henry Welch, M.D., LL.D., Nov1901, p. 127.

Timothy Brownson died at Salisbury, CT in 1766 and his LWT was dated 13Jun1763 (Appendix B). In his Will, Timothy Brownson named his wife and nine children. There was no mention of the youngest child, purported to have been a daughter named Abigail. Timothy bequeathed unto his wife, Abigail, one-third of both his moveable and his real property, not already devised to his children. Additionally, he left each child the rough equivalent of £51, with the exception of Huldah, his oldest daughter, and his son, Nathan. Some researchers have interpreted the exclusion of Nathan from an equal share of his father's estate to have been indicative of his already being in Georgia. It is now known from the Rehoboth birth record that that was not the case. In fact, Timothy explained his exclusion of Nathan from his share based on the following extract from the Will:

*“Item I will and bequeath to my beloved son **Nathan** the sum of 20 schillings lawful money and no more having already laid out full his grant and a liberal education;”*

It seems clear from this provision that Nathan had already received a substantial sum from his father for the expense of his education, particularly for his time at Yale.

Before moving on with this analysis of Dr. Brownson in the southern colonies, let's lay to rest, once and for all, an old misconception about Dr. Nathan Brownson's first wife. Many researchers contend that Dr. Nathan Brownson married a widow named Abigail Lewis at Cheshire Church, Connecticut on 29Jun1769. Suffice it to say, the author is confident that that marriage of the widow, Abigail Lewis, was not to Dr. Nathan Brownson, but to a different Nathan Brownson abstracted as follows:

*“11. **Nathan**, son of Moses, (5), married Obedience, daughter of Thomas Williams, 22Feb1750. She died 13Mar1753, and he married 2<sup>nd</sup> widow **Abigail Lewis**, 29Jun1769, who died 17Nov1800. Children: Reuben, born 28Nov1750, and unknown daughter, born 17Feb1753.”<sup>5</sup>*

From the Rehoboth birth record it can finally be stated with conviction that Dr. Nathan Brownson did not marry Abigail Lewis. In fact, that birth record suggests his first wife was named Sophia (Inu). Although there is unquestionable proof that Nathan had at least two children by his first wife: a daughter named Elizabeth [aka Betsey] and a son named Galen, no record could be found of either the marriage between Nathan and Sophia or the birth of their presumed son, Galen Brownson. Absent the date of that marriage or Galen's birth record, there is no reason to suppose that Elizabeth and Galen were Nathan and Sophia's only children. There is documentary evidence of at least two other male Brownson's living in Georgia in the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century at the same time and nearby to Dr. Nathan Brownson. Brownson is such a unique surname in the southern states during this time period, it is logical to think there may have been a kinship connection between those two male Brownsons and Nathan Brownson. If there were additional unknown children born to Nathan Brownson, then why might there not also have been a daughter named Mary Hannah, who married Richard Bostick? (more to follow)

Based on the following marriage announcement, it is known that Dr. Brownson was in South Carolina by Sep1774:

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<sup>5</sup> Bronson Lineage, 1636-1917, Harriet Bronson Sibley, 1917, p. 12.



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“Marriage. At **Saltketchers**, **Dr. Nathan Brownson**, to Mrs. Elisabeth [Donnom] Martin, widow of John Martin, Esq., late of **Newport** in Georgia. (Friday, September 2, 1774)”<sup>6</sup>

This marriage is reported to have taken place at “Saltketchers” on 2Sep1774. In 1774 a reference to “Saltketchers” would almost certainly have been intended for Saltketchers Church which was situated in the north bank of the Salkehatchie River near Saltketchers Bridge as illustrated on the excerpt of DeBrahm’s 1756 map shown in Figure 7-2. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Salkehatchie River and its lower segment, known as the Combahee River, formed the boundary between Colleton and Beaufort Districts. Colleton County became the settling place for religious *dissenters* in the first half of that century. Among the earliest settlers to Colleton were Quakers, Presbyterians, Unitarians, Baptists, Calvinists, and so-called Puritans (or Congregationalists). It was along the north side of the upper Ashley River that the Dorchester Massachusetts Puritans selected a site for establishing their southern Puritan Colony around 1696. It was descendants of that “Puritan” colony, who determined in 1752 to relocate from Dorchester Town and Beech Hill on the Ashley River to the Medway River in St. John’s Parish, GA.

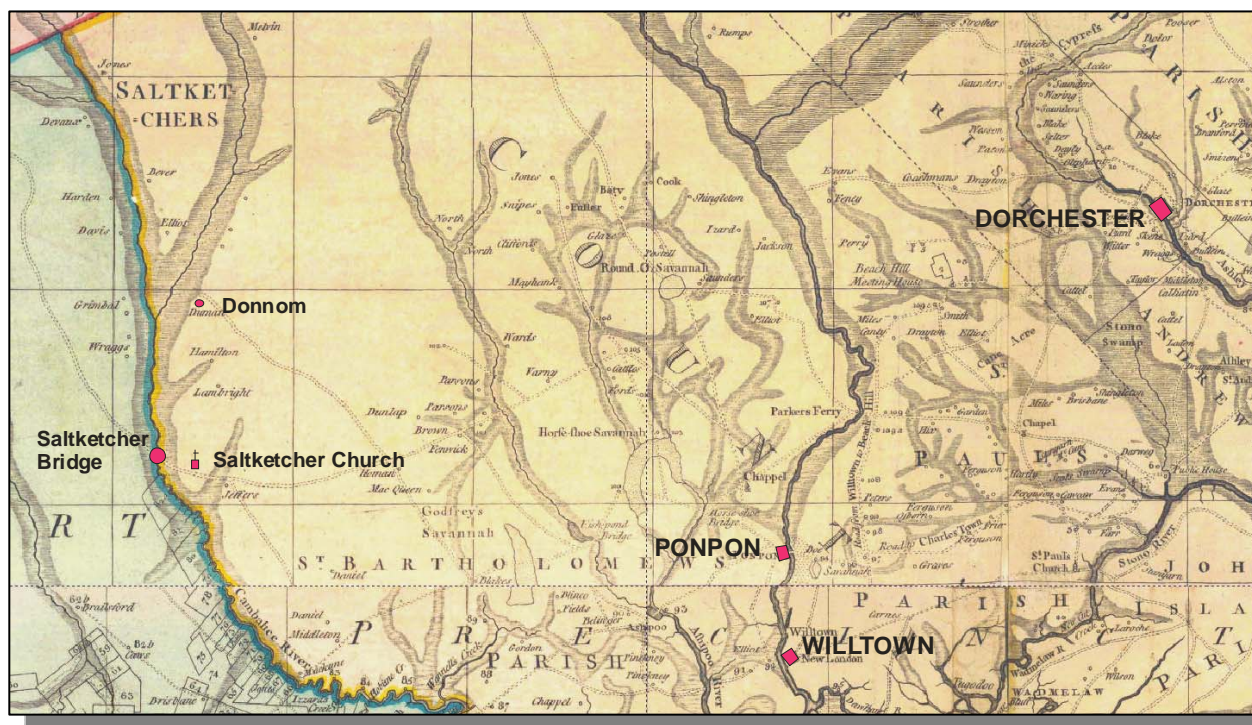


Figure 7-2  
Map of Colleton County Area – Circa 1756

During the early establishment of the *dissenting church* at Charleston around 1685, Presbyterians and Congregationalists met together and shared in a mixture of religious practice:

<sup>6</sup> Marriage Notices in The South Carolina and American General Gazette, compiled by A. S. Salley, Jr., 1914, p. 20.

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“In ‘the White Meeting,’ the Presbyterians, whether English, Irish or Scotch, and the Independents (Congregationalists), worshipped together.”<sup>7</sup>

The Donnom family of Colleton County can trace its roots to William Donnom, whose immigration to South Carolina was concurrent with, but not necessarily connected to, the Dorchester SC Puritan settlement, whereas the Brownson family had for several generations lived and worshiped among the predominantly Independent or Congregational population of Connecticut (the Congregational Church was the established church of Connecticut in colonial times).

N. B.: This presents a good opportunity to mention that one branch of the Connecticut Brownson family (three generations prior to the birth of Dr. Nathan Brownson) had moved south and were also among the first settlers at Dorchester Town on the Ashley River. From a 1725 “census” of his parish of St. George, Rev. Francis Varnod compiled a report of the heads of all households in his parish, whether Anglican or Dissenter. This census contained 120 households, 61 of which were labeled as *dissenters*, including the families of Isaac and Joseph Brunson [aka Brownson], sons of the first Brownson immigrant to South Carolina, John Brownson. Also included in this list were dissenter families named Way, Sumner, Graves, Cater (Thomas), Osgood, Baker, Douse and Bacon, all names that would later appear in the records of Midway Church in Liberty County, GA, and some of which would have direct or indirect connection to this investigation.

Jacob Donnom’s son, James Donnon (1720-1775/6) was married three times. The name of his first wife is unknown, but the name of his second wife and mother of Elizabeth Donnom was Mary Eliza Bee, daughter of John Bee of Ponpon [aka New London/Willtown] area. Refer to Figure 7-2 for a map of the Colleton County area as it appeared in about 1756. Between about 1755 and the time of his death, James Donnom acquired several tracts of land along the north side of the Combahee and Salkehatchie Rivers in Colleton County as well as tracts in St. Helena Parish, Beaufort District and on the south side of the Great Ogeechee River in Liberty County, GA. The regions containing the lands of James Donnom were fertile rice growing areas. Some of James Donnom’s children settled in Liberty County, probably in conjunction with the “Puritan” colony resettlement to the Midway District, including: James Jr., Sarah Parshena, and Elizabeth (wife of John Martin). Several nieces and nephews of James Donnom (children of his brother, William Donnom) also settled near Midway District. Refer to Appendix C for the Donnom Family Genealogy.

Elizabeth Donnom and John Martin were recorded married at Midway Church, Liberty County on 6Nov1760.<sup>8</sup> John Martin is believed to have been the son of James Martin of the James Island area of Colleton County. This kinship connection is predicated primarily on a gift deed summarized as follows:

“Date: 9/28/1747

Description: **MARTIN, JAMES**, OF ST. BARTHOLOMEWS PARISH, TO HIS SON, **BARACK MARTIN**, DEED OF GIFT FOR TWO NEGRO FELLOWS NAMED ROBIN AND WILL. (2 PAGES)”<sup>9</sup>

The given name of Barack [aka Barak] is extremely rare in the American colonies. As evidenced in the foregoing gift deed, James Martin had a son named “Barack” in 1747. As will be seen

<sup>7</sup> History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina, George Howe, D.D., 1870, p. 125.

<sup>8</sup> History of the Midway Congregational Church, Liberty County, Georgia, p. 171.

<sup>9</sup> SCDAAH.

later in the chapter, John Martin named a son Barrack Gibbons Martin. The only logical explanation for this given name to be repeated in two successive male lines of Martins is that Barack Martin, son of James Martin, was the brother of John Martin, ergo James Martin was John Martin's father.

John Martin and Alexander Martin were registered as "Subscribers" at the formation of the Midway Church in Liberty County, GA on 28Aug1754.<sup>10</sup> John Martin and Thomas Quarterman were elected to the office of Selectman for Midway Church in 1766 in the place of John Elliott and John Stewart, deceased. John Martin was again elected to the position of Selectman in 1769 thru 1771. On 4Mar1772 John Martin declined to continue in service as a Selectman, perhaps he was ailing, as he had written his LWT on 1Feb1772. Selectmen in the Congregational Church were the equivalent of Church Wardens in the Anglican Church. Among other responsibilities, they administered the collection and accounting of pew rents, which in 1765 at Midway Church amounted to £102 10s. From the foregoing, it would appear that John Martin was one of the founding organizers of Midway Church, probably immigrating to Georgia from Colleton County, SC.

Even though John Martin was an original founder and was married at the Midway Church, he appears to have continued connections in Colleton County as evidenced by the following land transactions:

1. Date: 1760-1761  
Description: **MARTIN, JOHN** TO ADAM CALLIAT, LEASE AND RELEASE FOR 70 ACRES OF LAND IN COLLETON COUNTY.<sup>11</sup>
2. Date: 1760-1761  
Description: CULLIAT, ADAM AND WIFE TO **JOHN MARTIN**, LEASE AND RELEASE FOR A SMALL PIECE OF LAND IN PON PON.
3. Date: 1760-1761  
Description: **MARTIN, JOHN** TO CATHARINE HOUSER, DEED OF GIFT FOR 3 ACRES OF LAND IN PON PON.
4. Date: 10/11/1760  
Description: MARTIN, JOHN, PLAT FOR 500 ACRES IN ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH.  
Names indexed: DEAN, NATHANIEL; LEIGH, EGERTON; **MARTIN, JOHN**  
Locations: COMBAHEE RIVER; ST. BARTHOLOMEWS PARISH
5. Date: 11/10/1761  
Description: BREWTON, MILES, LAND GRANT FOR 300 ACRES ON SALTCATCHER SWAMP, ST. BARTHOLOMEWS PARISH, COLLETON COUNTY. (1 PAGE)  
Names indexed: BREWTON, MILES; **MARTIN, JOHN**  
Locations: COLLETON COUNTY; SALKEHATCHIE RIVER; ST. BARTHOLOMEWS PARISH

From the foregoing land records it is clear that John Martin owned small tracts of land near Ponpon [Jacksonboro] around 1760, and that he continued to acquire land on the Saltketcher (near present day Yemassee) in 1761. Probably the Saltketcher property was in the near vicinity

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid., p. 37.

<sup>11</sup> SCDAH.



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of his father-in-law, James Donnom. John Martin and Elizabeth Donnom are believed to have lived on a plantation in Midway District from the time of their marriage until John Martin's death in late-1772. John and Elizabeth's marriage was recorded at Midway Church abstracted as follows:

"John Martin to Elizabeth Donnom, 6Nov1760."<sup>12</sup>

Several birth and death records for children of John and Elizabeth were also recorded in the Midway Church register as follows:

- John James Martin born to John Martin on 4Aug1763
- Barrack Gibbons Martin born to John Martin on 24Mar1765
- John Martin, son of John and Elizabeth Martin died Sep1766
- Sarah Hannah, daughter of John and Elizabeth Martin, died 5Nov1767.

John Martin held public offices abstracted as follows:

"Martin, John (---- to 1772): Clerk, Naval Office, Port of Sunbury, 1Oct1762, Justice of Peace, St. Johns Parish, 16Dec1765 to 2Feb1768."<sup>13</sup>

The exact date of John Martin's death is unknown to the author, but he wrote his LWT dated 1Feb1772, which was proven on 18Dec1772 in Liberty County, GA. A transcribed copy of this Will is contained in Appendix D. The only child mentioned in John's LWT was a son named James Dunham [aka Donnom] Martin, reportedly born in Jun1769 (no record of the birth was found in the Midway Church register). James Dunham Martin would still have been a child at time of his father's death. Also mentioned in the LWT were several nieces and nephews as follows: children of Sarah Gibbons: James Martin Gibbons, Joseph Gibbons, Barrack Gibbons, Rebecca Martin Gibbons; and child of Hannah Gibbons: John Gibbons. Note that Hannah Gibbons and Sarah Gibbons were full-blood sisters of John Martin, and that they had married brothers: William and Joseph Gibbons. Several land grants are on file in Georgia Archives for a John Martin abstracted as follows:

Title Martin, John  
County Parishes  
Number of Acres 400  
Year 1769  
Volume C  
Page 191  
Record ID 40643  
Cite as Georgia Colonial and Headright Plat Index, 1735-1866

Title Martin, John  
County Parishes  
Number of Acres 500  
Year 1766  
Volume C  
Page 265  
Record ID 40913

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<sup>12</sup> History of the Midway Congregational Church, Liberty County, Georgia, p. 171.

<sup>13</sup> Georgia Virtual Vault, Georgia Archives and History.

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Cite as Georgia Colonial and Headright Plat Index, 1735-1866

Title Martin, John

County Parishes

Number of Acres 84

Year 1770

Volume C

Page 275

Record ID 40949

Cite as Georgia Colonial and Headright Plat Index, 1735-1866

Title Martin, John

County Parishes

Number of Acres 150

Year 1772

Volume C

Page 208

Record ID 40710

Cite as Georgia Colonial and Headright Plat Index, 1735-1866

The foregoing grants may have been for the subject John Martin, but cannot be identified with certainty since the name of the Parish is missing. From the LWT of John Martin it is clear that he owned several tracts of land in St. John's Parish totaling 1500 acres, as well as two tracts on the Altamaha River: one of 900 acres and another of 200 acres. In addition to the land, John Martin bequeathed to his wife, Elizabeth Donnom, eleven slaves which had originally been given to Martin by his father-in-law, James Donnom (probably as Elizabeth's dower). John Martin named the following persons as Executors: James Dunham, Esq. of South Carolina [his father-in-law], Joseph Gibbons (nephew), William Gibbons (nephew), William Graves Sr., John Stuart, Thomas Quarterman [fellow Selectman] and Thomas Bacon (son of Marcy Bacon). The Will was witnessed by John Prothrees, Thomas Cater and John Davis.

N. B.: This Thomas Cater probably was the father of Thomas Cater, who married Elizabeth Franklin, and who was murdered by Elizabeth Franklin Cater's lover at Kelvin Grove Plantation on St. Simon's Island, Christ Church Parish in 1804. There is good reason to believe that this Thomas Cater was a son of Stephen Cater, presumed son of William Cater (1690-1749) of St. George Parish, Dorchester, SC. Stephen Cater petitioned for and was granted 1000 acres on the Medway River in Feb 1759. He died at Dorchester SC in 1785. It seems likely that Stephen's son, the subject Thomas Cater migrated to Midway with the Congregationalists. A second cousin of this Thomas Cater, also named Thomas Cater, settled in Beaufort District, SC with his wife, Rebecca Miles, and established Cater Hall Plantation. Richard Bostick and his son, Benjamin Robert Bostick, acquired Cater Hall Plantation in 1815.

It is reported that the marriage of Elizabeth Donnom Martin and Nathan Brownson was held at "Saltketchers". Another source states that the marriage was held in St. Bartholomew's Parish, an area that consisted of roughly the western half of Colleton County. With this marriage having occurred at "Saltketchers" [Salkehatchie], SC it would place Nathan Brownson within about 25 miles of the Robertville area where Samuel Bostick received his first grant on Black Swamp in 1772. Most genealogical researchers report Nathan Brownson having moved from the New England area directly to Liberty County, GA sometime between about 1764 and 1774. The earliest record found for Dr. Nathan Brownson in Georgia is abstracted as follows:

"1773 – Dr. James Dunwody's account to **Nathan Brownson**, who is asking for his part in the division of certain bills rendered to their patients. Some of the names appearing are the following, mentioned to

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establish their residence in Liberty County at this time: John Taylor, Stephen Cater, Jeremiah Dickenson, Nathan Taylor, Jonathan Bacon, Estate of John Quarterman, Mary Bateman, William Norman, Ann Barbary Haskins, William LeConte, Christopher Blanton, Paul Fulton (for which James McCullough gave his note of hand), James Butler, Rebecca Petly, Barbary Osgood, Mary Arthur, Stephen Williams, Isham Andrews, John Witherspoon, John Evans, Captain Andrew Maybank, Lieutenant James Cochran, John Scriven, Benjamin Farley, Estate of Sarah Golding, Davis Austen, Mathew Smallwood, John Forbes, John Mitchell, Robert Smallwood, Edward Ball, Edward Splat; In Book B, 1774: Elizabeth Ballow, Sarah Mitchell, Josiah Powell, Benjamin Stead, Esq., Mrs. Jeans, David Anderson, Jonathan Scarth, and Gideon Dowse.”<sup>14</sup>

In the foregoing record Dr’s. James Dunwoody and Nathan Brownson were segregating the accounts of their various patients. Given that this accounting was being compiled in 1773, and the fact that it contained the names of approximately 35 patients from that year, it is reasonable to conclude that it likely represented services performed by these doctors over at least the two previous years, implying that Dr. Nathan Brownson had been in St. Johns Parish from at least sometime in 1771.

John and Elizabeth Martin had lived most of their married life in Liberty County. Since Elizabeth Donnom Martin received land and property from her husband’s Will, along with eleven slaves, it seems logical that she may have continued to live in St. John’s Parish following her husband’s death. Consequently, it is reasonable to conclude that Dr. Brownson and Elizabeth Donnom Martin must have become acquainted while living in the community of Midway District.

One other early record pertaining to Dr. Nathan Brownson provides an apparent connection to Beaufort District, SC. In the appraisalment of Daniel DeSaussure’s estate submitted on 29Dec1798 was a list of debtors, including a debt of £90 owed by Nathan Brownson dated 5Oct1775. The dates of the debts listed in this ledger ranged from 1766 to 1797. Daniel DeSaussure operated the largest mercantile business in South Carolina outside of Charleston from about 1765 until his death. His business was located in the town of Beaufort within St. Helena Parish. Dr. Nathan Brownson’s youngest son, Dr. James Dunwoody Brownson, established his own practice and lived his adult life in St. Helena Parish. These family and business connections of the Brownson family to Beaufort District, and specifically to St. Helena Parish are strong indicators that Dr. Nathan Brownson may have had business dealings in Beaufort District at around the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Donnom, widow of John Martin.

Elizabeth Donnom probably was born at Ponpon [Willtown] around 1743. Her father, James Donnom was a founding trustee of the Presbyterian Church at Ponpon and owned tracts of land near Ponpon. Beginning around 1758 James Donnom began purchasing land on the Combahee/Salkehatchie River, and soon afterward moved his family to the Saltketchers region. To get a grasp of the social and religious orientation of this Donnom family, it is worthwhile to mention the marriages of three of James Donnom’s brothers:

1. “Jonathan Donnom, planter of Granville County, had married Margaret Dunwoody on 6Jun1754. His lands were in the great fork of Saltcatcher. He appointed his brother, James as executor of his Will. SCHM, X

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<sup>14</sup> Annals of Georgia, Important Early Records of the State, Volume 1 –Liberty County, Caroline Price Wilson, 1928, p. 59.

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(1909), p. 231; "Will of Jonathan Donnom", dated 29Jan1773, proved ----, Charleston County Wills, XVI, Book A (1774-1779), 248-249, S. C. Archives."<sup>15</sup>

*NOTE: Margaret Dunwwody, wife of Jonathan Donnom is believed to have been a sister or daughter of William Dunwwody, who appeared in records in lower Colleton County in the 1730's thru 1750. Also believed to have been connected to this Dunwoody family was a John Dunwoody, who was an original subscriber of the Midway Church in 1756. According to Dr. Stacy, John Dunwoody was one of the first settlers of Midway District. The reader's attention is directed to these Dunwoodys because another person by the name of James Dunwoody has a more direct and significant impact on Dr. Nathan Brownson. (More to follow.)*

2. "23-24Oct1751 – William Donnom, planter to Joseph Fabian, planter, both of St. Paul's Parish, Colleton County...150 acres on east side of Ponpon River...Mary Donnom, wife of William, renounces her dower right."

*William Donnom was recorded marrying Mary Taylor at Midway Church on 11Mar1756. William's first wife is reported to have been Mary Hendricks.*

3. "23-24Dec1753 – Daniel Donnon, carpenter, of Colleton County, and Elizabeth, his wife, to Daniel Slade, carpenter of St. George Parish, Berkeley County...22 acres, being one-sixth part of 132 acres, formerly belonging to Josiah Osgood...Whereas Josiah Osgood, father of Elizabeth Donnom...one-third descended to his two sisters: Mary and Elizabeth, and whereas Mary, jointly with Hugh Dowse, her husband..."

*There are two marriages mentioned in this deed document: Daniel Donnom was married to Elizabeth Osgood, daughter of Josiah Osgood, whereas Mary Osgood was married to Hugh Dowse. Josiah Osgood was a charter subscriber to the Midway Church. Hugh Dowse was one of the original land grantees at Midway, receiving 500 acres on 6Aug1752. Also, note that Gideon Dowse, presumed brother of Hugh Dowse, was an abutting landowner at Altamaha, named in the LWT of John Martin.*

After James Donnom had moved his family from Ponpon Church at Willtown to Saltketchers, a schism arose among the Ponpon parishioners over a proposal to build another church at Saltketchers to better serve the growing numbers in that area, which stood at a distance of almost 25 miles from Ponpon. Some members were opposed while others were in favor of the new church. The following offers a description of the circumstances that led to the construction of the new Saltketchers Church:

"But a new church was organized on the north side of Salt Ketcher, in Colleton District, by the labors of Mr. [Archibald] Simpson. The people of the neighborhood, he tells us [in his diary], were originally of the Church of England, and had no desire for the preaching of the gospel till two families of the name of Dunham [Jonathan and James], from the Bethel Church, Pon Pon, and another from the same, by the name of Hamilton [Archibald], moved among them. They then resolved on establishing gospel worship among them, and commenced the erection of a house of worship about ten miles from Mr. Simpson's, with the design of building another about ten miles beyond, where the large portion of the congregation lived. April 3, 1766, they presented a call to Mr. Simpson..."<sup>16</sup>

Not far from his home on Stoney Creek he founded the Saltketcher Church."<sup>17</sup>

James Donnom remained a trustee of the Bethel Church at Ponpon until the day he died. In fact, James Donnom was the sole surviving trustee, which circumstance led to a lawsuit. James Donnom had been in possession of the Ponpon church's assets and attempted to settle that account through provisions of his LWT. He placed in trust certain of his personal assets which he believed to be of equal value to the church's funds left in his trust. He then proceeded thru his Will to direct that 2/3 of those assets should inure to the Ponpon Church, and the remaining third to the Saltketcher Church. Members of the Ponpon Church filed suit against the estate of James

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<sup>15</sup> The Papers of Henry Laurens; Vol. 3, 1Jan1759-31Aug1783, Henry Laurens, 1972, p. 487.

<sup>16</sup> History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina, George Howe, p. 326.

<sup>17</sup> Southern Presbyterian Leaders, Henry Alexander White, 1911, pp. 86-7.

Donnom and his designated trustees. The court ruled in favor of the Bethel congregation. A summary of this case is presented as follows:

“This was a bill filed by complainants to have an account of the estate and profits arising from the personal estate formerly in the hands of Mr. James Donnom, as a trustee for the Prebyterian Church then unincorporated. The congregation had been formed of persons residing in St. Bartholomew's parish, on the west bank of the Ponpon River, and its vicinity; and the funds collected by voluntary subscription to uphold the church and parsonage for the use of the congregation and minister, near Ponpon River. The Trustees were to be residents; and if they moved out of the parish, or disinclined acting, their places were to be supplied. James Donnom, the surviving trustee, had possession of the estate for a considerable time; and directed by his last Will, that the property should go to certain persons whom he names, to be held in trust; and two-thirds of the income to be applied to support a minister at the church near Ponpon River; and one-third to be applied to support a minister at the Saltcatcher Church, (within the parish of St. Bartholomew, but above twenty miles from the church on Ponpon River), to which place he, Donnom, had removed.<sup>18</sup>

James Donnom's estate was inventoried on 6Jun1776, so presumably he had died sometime in the previous few months. His daughter, Elizabeth Donnom, widow of John Martin, married Dr. Nathan Brownson on 2Sep1774, probably either at the home of James Donnom or at Saltketchers Church. Dr. Brownson ran up a bill at Henry Desaussure's store in Beaufort in 1775. The combination of these two events suggests that Dr. Brownson may have been living in Beaufort District briefly before and following his marriage to Elizabeth Donnom, or he had some significant connections to the St. Helena Parish region. With the relatively large markets available at both Savannah and Sunbury, it is unreasonable to think that Dr. Brownson would travel the extra distance from Riceboro to Beaufort to do his shopping. The bill at Desaussure's store in Beaufort is strong indication of local residency or medical practice in that area in 1775.

The reader should take note of the fact that many of the parties associated with this investigation into the ancestry of “Miss Burroughson” as a descendant of Dr. Nathan Brownson have strong connections to both Colleton/Beaufort District, SC and Liberty County, GA and specifically to the Congregational settlements near the communities of Dorchester, Ponpon, Salketchers, Beaufort, Midway and Sunbury. An early evidence of this connection is apparent in the fact that John Martin was identified in the marriage announcement of Nathan Brownson and Elizabeth Martin as having been “late of Newport” Georgia. Such connection to Liberty County is further reinforced by the fact John Martin and Elizabeth Donnom were married in 1760 at Midway Church. This connection of allied parties to the Liberty County region is significant to this investigation because it provides the link for Miss Burroughson having been described as “of Savannah”. Refer to Figure 7-3 for an illustration of the relatively close proximity between Savannah and Midway Church, a distance of less than 30 miles. Dr. Nathan Brownson's main place of residence for most of his life in Georgia was reported as being at Riceboro, however there is evidence to suggest that he also must have resided in Augusta and in Effingham County, and perhaps even at Little Ogechee at various times during his life in Georgia.

Before presenting further background on Nathan Brownson, the reader should be made aware of the fact that Richard Bostick's father, Valentine Bostick, applied for and was granted a 400 acre tract of land on the south side of the Great Ogechee River in the vicinity of the now dead town of Hardwicke as illustrated on Figure 7-3. This figure contains an excerpt of a 1756 map drawn by William DeBrahm covering the colonies of South Carolina and Georgia. Valentine Bostick's

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<sup>18</sup> Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Court of Chancery... Volumes 1-2, Henry William Desaussure, 1854, p. 154.



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tract is believed to have been situated on Sterling Swamp somewhere within the green oval. This tract would have been situated about mid-way between Savannah and Riceboro and within a couple of miles of the proposed new provincial capital of [Hardwicke] Georgia.

Following are the colonial records relating to Valentine Bostick's petitions for a land grant.

- 7Feb1753 – Read a petition of **Valentine Bostick** of North Carolina, setting forth, that he was desirous of removing into the Colony with his family, among which he had eleven working hands, in order to improve a tract of land; therefore he prayed for 500 acres situated in the forks of the Newport River beginning at a Cypress swamp on the south side of the River.

The Board acquainted the said Valentine Bostick, that a tract of 400 acres should be reserved where he requested, and when he brought his family into the Colony, and they were satisfied with his ability to improve such a tract a warrant should be ordered to have it laid out for him.

*Note that the location proposed for this grant was situated between the forks of the Newport River, the exact same location proposed by the Dorchester South Carolina Puritan Colony for the 35,000 acre grant for their resettlement to Georgia. Since the timing and location of this grant petition by Valentine coincided with that of the Dorchester Colony, it raises a question as to whether Valentine may have been affiliated with the Congregational Church and, therefore, may have been aware of its planned relocation to this area.*

- 3Apr1754 – Read a petition of **Valentine Bostick** late of North Carolina, setting forth, that he had brought his whole family into the Colony, and was desirous of settling and improving lands; therefore he prayed for 400 acres, situated on **Sterling's Swamp**, adjoining William Harn's land on the south side of the Great Ogechee River. The Board ordered 400 acres of land to be laid out for the said Valentine Bostick where he requested.

*About 14 months after his first petition Valentine had arrived in the Georgia Colony with his family and was desirous of receiving his promised grant of 400 acres. However, with this petition he had changed the location of his proposed grant from the area between the branches of the Medway to a location along the south side of the Great Ogechee on Sterlings Swamp near the proposed town of George-Town, later renamed Hardwicke. The Board granted the requested 400 acres.*

- Jun1755 – Read a petition of **Valentine Bostick** of this Province, Planter, praying for 350 acres of land. Ordered – That the said petition be postponed.  
*Another 14 months had elapsed since Valentine received his 400 acre grant and he now applied for an additional 350 acres, but the Board postponed his request. No further record could be found of this requested grant.*

- 5Jun1755 – **Valentine Bostick**, School Master (licensed during pleasure).  
*From this record it would appear that Valentine was sufficiently educated as to qualify for a license to teach school. Valentine died about 2-1/2 years later, as his widow, Mary Bostick, filed for a grant in*

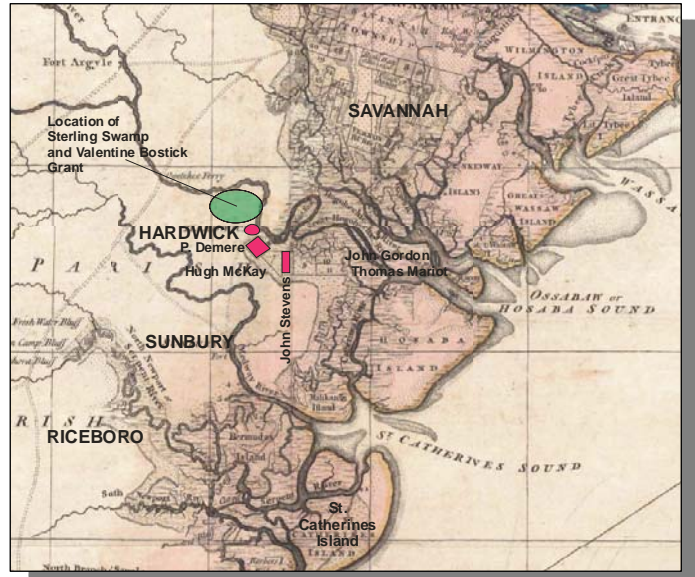


Figure 7-3  
Map of Southeast Georgia – Circa 1756

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*Onslow County, NC on 23Jun1758. Mary was pregnant at the time of Valentine's death, as their son, Richard, was born on 14Sep1758.*

- Feb1758 – Read a petition from Sarah Boddie...Therefore praying for 300 acres at Great Ogechee aforesaid, lying between lands of \_\_\_Sterling, Samuel New, William Butler Jr. and **Valentine Bostick**...  
*This petition by the widow, Sarah Boddie, indicates that the proposed location of her requested grant abutted the lands of \_\_\_Sterling, Valentine Bostick, etal. It would appear from this petition that Valentine Bostick was still showing on records in possession of at least one tract of land near Sterlings Swamp. Valentine may have been dead at the time of this filing, as he is believed to have died sometime between January and June of 1758. Logic suggests that Valentine had abandoned his grant by Spring 1758. Whether Valentine's family was able to retain a claim to this land grant is open to debate.*

It is probably a mere coincidence that Valentine Bostick's grant was situated so close to parties that would later be connected to Dr. Nathan Brownson, but perhaps not. During the Valentine Bostick family's brief stay on Sterlings Swamp (about 4 to 5 years) the eldest sons: Charles, John and Samuel would have been aged about 6 to 12 years old. Richard was not yet born. It may well have been John and Samuel's childhood memories of the Ogechee Delta that led them to return to Georgia as young men in about 1770. An illustration of the proximity between the Bostick grant and the James Dunham [aka Donnom] family may be found in the following description of St. Philips Parish upon its formation in 1758:

[From] the town of Hardwick and district of Ogechee, on the south side of the river Great Ogechee, extending northwest up the river as far as the Lower-Indian trading-path, leading from Mount Pleasant, and southward from the town of **Hardwick** as far as the swamp of **James Dunham**, including the settlements on the north side of the north branches of the river Midway, with the islands of Ossabaw, and from the head of the said Dunham's Swamp in a northwest line, shall be and forever continue a parish, by the name of "The parish of St. Philip:"

Upon his arrival in Georgia in 1754 Valentine and his family would have faced extraordinary challenges. The land between the Ogechee and Newport Rivers was still in a relatively natural state, untouched and unsullied by the European settlement. The following description by Charles Colcock Jones is an apt portrayal of the conditions faced by these first settlers to the region surrounding Sunbury:

"In such malarial situations was the entire year passed (circa 1754). Their houses at first were built of wood, one story high, with dormer windows in the roofs, small in size, without lights, with no inside linings, and with chimneys of clay... For market, rice was the only article cultivated. While corn was planted on the upland, chief attention was bestowed upon clearing, ditching and drainage of the swamps. A miasmatic soil was thus exposed to the action of the sun, at their very doors. The consequence of such injudicious location, and of a general inattention to domestic comfort, was violent sickness and considerable mortality. So frequent were the deaths among children that they seldom arrived at puberty. Those who attained the age of "adulthood" possessed feeble constitutions... April, May, June and August would have been the healthiest months: June particularly so. Bilious fevers in the fall, and pleurisies in the winter and spring, were the diseases which proved most fatal. It used to be said of such as survived a severe attack of bilious fever in the Fall, that they would certainly die of pleurisy in the winter or spring.

The Indians being in the vicinity, and at times indulging in acts of hostility, some of the houses of these early settlers were made of hewn cypress logs after a fashion of block houses, and were bullet proof. The style of agriculture in vogue was of the most primitive sort. The ground was tilled with hoes only. Ploughs were not in use... The grain was not only threshed but also beaten by hand... At first some of the planters sold their crops in Savannah. A trip to that place was the event of the year... Horses were

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specially fed and carefully attended for a week or more preparatory to the jaunt. Ordinary journeys to church, and of a social character, were performed on horseback. The country was filled with game. Ducks and wild geese in innumerable quantities frequented the rice fields. Wild turkeys and deer abounded. Bears and beaver were found in the swamps, and buffalo herds wandered at no great remove to the southward and northward.”<sup>19</sup>

Thusly, it is made apparent that Valentine Bostick's family settled upon undeveloped swamp lands in a bend of the Great Ogechee, almost 25 miles removed from Savannah and civilization. Valentine stated in his petition that he could enter the colony with eleven working hands capable of clearing land, draining swamps and cultivating crops. It is known from the gift deed (abstracted below) from Charles Bostick recorded in Onslow County, NC in 1750, that Valentine and his son, Charles, received a gift of twelve slaves.

"Charles Bostick, Sept. 7, 1750, deeded to his son Valentine Bostick for love, etc., nine negroes and all household goods provided he allow his mother, Pheby [Phoebe] Bostick, a sufficient maintenance for her lifetime and I give to my grandson, Charles Bostick, three negroes to be in care of his father, my son Valentine Bostick, until he is 21 years of age. Witnesses: John Wilson, George Woodroof, Robert Avery.”<sup>20</sup>

It might be presumed that the “eleven working hands” claimed by Valentine in his land grant petition consisted partly of his inherited slaves. His initial request was for 500 acres (maximum being granted at that time), but was granted only 400 acres. It seems likely that Valentine's children were still under the age of 12 years and might not have been recognized by the colonial government as yet capable of such arduous work. The fact that Valentine later petitioned in 1755 for 350 additional acres suggests that he thought he could qualify a total of 15 headrights (400 acres + 350 acres / 50 acres per person). This latter petition implies that Valentine now had an additional three members of his household capable of agricultural work. Was this an indication of some of Valentine's sons now being old enough to qualify as a headright?

Valentine was granted a license in Jun1755 to practice as a School Master in the Georgia colony. It seems possible that a school may have been built at the fledgling new town of Hardwick, not but 2 to 3 miles distance from Sterling Swamp and the Bostick rice plantation. There had also been established a school in 1740 at the Orphan House by the Rev. George Whitefield. Orphan House was only about five miles removed from Sterling Swamp. It would appear that the family was settling into their new home on the Ogechee. Something traumatic must have occurred to Valentine over the next two years, for by June1758 Mary Graves Bostick, Valentine's wife, was back in Onslow County, NC where she purchased 200 acres on the south bank of the New River estuary. Most likely, Valentine had succumbed to the *miasmatic and malarial* infested atmosphere of the Ogechee delta. Whether Valentine lived to make the return trip to Onslow County or whether he died and was buried at his plantation on the Ogechee is unknown. It seems possible that he may have been buried on Sterling Swamp, and knowledge of and veneration for Valentine and his resting place may have been the attraction that drew Richard and other members of Richard's family back to the region in later years. Or is it possible that the Bostick family still had claim to Valentine's plantation? Following is a description of the terms under which such grants were made following the rules adopted by the Common Council in May, 1750:

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<sup>19</sup> The Dead Towns of Georgia, Charles Colcock Jones, Jr., 1878, pp. 152-3.

<sup>20</sup> Onslow County North Carolina, Deed Book C, Page 49.

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1. The grantee obligated himself to abide in Georgia with his servants for a term of not less than three years, building houses and cultivating the lands.  
*It seems almost certain that Valentine met this requirement.*
2. Within ten years from the registry of the grant, at least 200 acres were to be cleared and cultivated.  
*It cannot be stated with certainty that Valentine was able to meet this requirement, but the fact that he petitioned for an additional 350 acres in Jun1755 might be construed as evidence that he had substantially developed the first 400 acre tract and was in need of additional land.*
3. No alienation of the lands thus granted, either in whole or in part, for a term of years or otherwise, was permitted **except by special leave**.  
*Certainly, when the Bostick family removed itself back to Onslow County (probably in the Spring of 1758), they would have been construed as having “alienated” themselves from this grant. There is no record of the Bosticks having obtained special leave from the Council. Consequently, it is unknown whether they met this particular term of the grant.*
4. After the elapse of eighteen years from the date of the grant, should any part of the 500 acres remain uncultivated, unplanted, uncleared, and without a worm-fence, or pales six feet high, such portion should revert to the Trust, and the grant, *pro tanto*, was to become void.  
*From the records of Granville County, SC and Effingham County, GA it is known that John and Samuel Bostick was back in Beaufort District (and probably Georgia) sometime around 1772, well within the specified 18-year period. Whether the Bosticks could still claim title to Valentine’s grant, or whether any part of the grant may have reverted as a result of this provision is unknown.*
5. These grants were to Tail Male.<sup>21</sup>  
*Per this provision title to Valentine’s grant could have passed to his male offspring.*

Whether title to Valentine Bostick’s Sterling Swamp grant may have passed on to his sons is not known. However, a hint that such may have been the case can be found in the LWT of Richard Bostick as contained in the following excerpt:

“To my son John R. Bostick, I give, devise and bequeath as follows, Viz: All the lands, with their appurtenances, of which I am seized or possessed, on the West of Manning’s on Jacobs Branch, **with my Savannah Plantation**, and a track of land purchased on Webster’s Lake called Moore’s pastures...”<sup>22</sup>

Richard was the youngest and only surviving male heir of Valentine Bostick when he penned his LWT in Beaufort District, SC on 3Apr1830. Was this reference to his “Savannah Plantation” possibly in reference to the Sterling Swamp tract? No record was found of Richard Bostick having acquired land in Georgia, although such absence of documentation is understandable given the spotty condition of land records from this period. Caroline Price Wilson did allude to Richard and his wife, Mary Hannah, having appeared on deed records in Georgia, but she did not provide any specific citation for this assertion. One must conclude that Price Wilson found such records in the 1930’s, otherwise she probably would not have made such a claim. Regrettably, we are left without the hard evidence to verify the existence or contents of such records. So, we must be content with speculation.

Let’s assume for a moment that the “Savannah Plantation” was in fact the Sterling Swamp grant. Following Common Law practice of a “tail male” inheritance, coupled with the law of primogeniture, the grant could have passed the Valentine’s eldest living legitimate son upon Valentine’s death. Valentine’s sons in order of birth are believed by the author to have been Charles, Samuel, John and Richard. It seems clear under the terms of a “tail male” grant that

<sup>21</sup> The Dead Towns of Georgia, pp. 144-5.

<sup>22</sup> Last Will and Testament of Richard Bostick, copy in possession of author.

title would have first passed to the eldest son, Charles, as all four sons were still alive at the time of Valentine's death. It is unclear to the author what the line of succession might have been upon the death of Charles. Might it then pass to Charles' eldest living son, or might it not have passed to Charles' next youngest living brother? Under the latter scenario, the line of succession would have ultimately passed down to Richard, the last surviving son of Valentine. Once having passed to Richard, who would be next in the line of succession? Would title revert to a male heir of one of Richard's older brothers, or would it then remain in Richard's line and pass to his male heirs? These are questions beyond the ken of the author to answer, but it seems possible that the line of succession might remain within the lineage of the last surviving son of Valentine, in which case the grant title would succeed to Richard's eldest living son, namely John R. Bostick. These are thoughts for the reader to ponder, which may offer evidence that the "*Savannah Plantation*" may have been Valentine's Sterling Swamp grant and/or the additional 350 acres requested but postponed.

Another possible explanation for Richard Bostick's *Savannah Plantation* could be that he purchased a tract of land near Savannah after reaching adulthood and while living near his brother, Samuel Bostick, in either Beaufort District South Carolina or Effingham County Georgia. Such acquisition probably would have occurred not long after the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, perhaps around 1782/3.

Had Valentine survived he would have lived to see the rapid transformation and growth of the neighborhood surrounding his plantation. Although Governor Reynold's vision of transplanting the provincial capital from Savannah to Hardwick failed to gain support, the nearby settlement of Sunbury quickly grew to a seaport which rivalled, perhaps even eclipsed Savannah by 1770. Located on the south bluff of the Medway River, about seven miles inland from St. Catherine's Sound, Sunbury was established on land originally granted to Mark Carr described as follows:

"By a certain grant under the great seal of the Province of Georgia, bearing date the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 1757, his Majesty George II conveyed to Mark Carr, his heirs and assigns forever, in free and common socage, 'All that tract of land containing five hundred acres, situate and being in the District of Midway...'

The grantee of these lands, which embraced the site of the future town of Sunbury, had been for some twenty years a man of means and of mark in the Colony of Georgia... In his last will and testament, dated 8Jun1767...Captain Carr describes himself as being 'of the Parish of St. Patrick in the Province of Georgia, Esquire.'<sup>23</sup>

According to Charles Colcock Jones, Mark Carr conveyed on 20Jun1758, 300 acres from this 500 acre grant, including that portion bordering on the Medway River, to James Maxwell, Kenneth Baillie, John Elliott and John Stevens in trust that they should lay out a town site by the name of *Sunbury*. John Stevens and John Elliott were prominent members of the Midway Congregation, the transplanted *Puritans* who had recently relocated to the area from Dorchester, SC. Stevens and Elliott were also members of the Provincial Congress, as was Dr. Brownson.

N. B.: A distant kinsman of John Stevens by the name of Reverend Henry John Stevens married Mary Elizabeth Bostick, daughter of Jacob S. Bostick and Naomi Wylly, and granddaughter of Richard Bostick. Rev. Henry Stevens was born and raised at Midway, preached briefly at the Robertville Baptist Church in

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<sup>23</sup> Ibid., p.



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Beaufort County, SC, and died nearby and is buried in Midway Cemetery, as is Dr. Brownson. The various strands of these Stevens families can be traced back to New England in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, where they were deeply involved with the Congregational churches of their regions of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire, and ultimately back to Caversham, Oxfordshire, England in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Undoubtedly, the longstanding involvement of these Stevens’ with the Congregational Church was the root cause for these otherwise disparate branches of this family having converged at Midway, GA in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Charles Colcock Jones relates the manner in which the settlement of the Sunbury District occurred:

“The Beach-Hill [Dorchester, SC] Congregation settled upon the heads of the two Newport [Medway] Rivers early in the year 1752, when they left Carolina in a great body, they continued drawing their Effects and Cattle after settling all other concerns in their native Province until 1755, many rich Carolina Planters followed the example of that congregation, and came with all their families and negroes to settle in Georgia in 1752; the spirit of emigration out of South Carolina into Georgia became so universal that year, that this and the following year near 1000 negroes were brought into Georgia, where in 1751 were scarce above three dozen...

These removals were most numerous during the years 1754, 1755 and 1756. The immigrants brought their negroes with them, and it appears probable, from the best lights before us, that the population of this colony, after its full establishment, consisted of about 350 whites, and 1500 negro slaves.”<sup>24</sup>

The Sunbury trustees quickly set about planning the town’s layout, which was to embrace three public squares and 496 town lots, laid out in a grid pattern as illustrated in Figure 7-4. These lots had a uniform front of 70 feet and a depth of 130 feet with four lots in each block, set within a street grid. Jones further described the growth of Sunbury:

“Within a short time substantial wharves were constructed, the most marked of which were subsequently owned and used by the following merchants: Kelsell and Spalding, Fisher, Jones and Hughes, Darling and Company, and Lamot...as early as 1761 the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of his council, established and declared it [Sunbury] to be a port of entry, and appointed Thomas Carr, Collector, **John Martin**, Naval Officer [husband of Elizabeth Donnom], and Francis Lee, Searcher... a lucrative trade was carried on with various parts of the West Indies in lumber, rice,

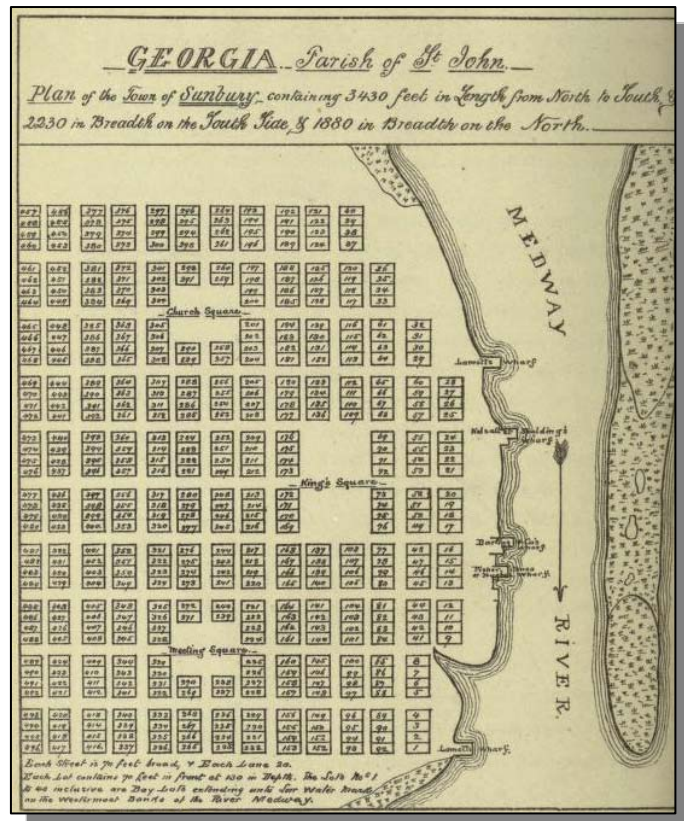


Figure 7-4  
Sunbury Town Plan – Circa 1756

<sup>24</sup> The Dead Towns of Georgia, pp. 151.

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indigo, corn, etc., and seven square-rigged vessels have been known to enter the port of Sunbury in one day, and about the years 1769 and 1770 it was thought by many, in point of commercial importance, to rival Savannah. In this prosperous state it continued with very little interruption until the war commenced between Great Britain and America.”<sup>25</sup>

Having presented the history of Valentine Bostick’s venture into Georgia overlaid with the concurrent immigration and settlement of the Congregational colony at Midway/Sunbury, it is now time to return to our main character, Dr. Nathan Brownson. Remember that Dr. Nathan Brownson had married Elizabeth Donnom Martin, daughter of James Donnom, at Saltketchers (sic) on 2Sep1774. Dr. Brownson’s marriage to Elizabeth Donnom Martin was short-lived, as Elizabeth died 4Apr1775.<sup>26</sup> There do not appear to have been any children from this marriage. Elizabeth Donnom Martin was left a substantial bequest from her 1<sup>st</sup> husband’s estate as evidenced by the LWT of John Martin,



Figure 7-5  
Midway Congregational Church – Erected 1792

attached hereto as Appendix D. It should be noted that John Martin named the following persons as executors of his estate: *my father-in-law James Donnom Esquire of South Carolina and my two nephews Joseph and William Gibbons sons of Hannah Gibbons and my trusty friends William Graves Sr., John Stuart, Thomas Quarterman, and Thomas Bacon son of Marcy Bacon.* Without exception, all of Martin’s “trusty friends” were members of the Midway Church congregation. This fact offers a strong suggestion that John Martin was also a trusted member of that congregation.

Interestingly, the bulk of John Martin’s bequest to his wife, Elizabeth Donnom, consisted of eleven slaves, which had been given to John Martin by James Donnom, Elizabeth’s father, probably as part of her marriage dower. In the LWT of Elizabeth Donnom Martin Brownson (contained in Appendix E) she named only one son: James Donnom Martin. Elizabeth bequeathed the main bulk of her estate to her husband, Nathan Brownson, which included the slaves bequeathed to her by her deceased husband, John Martin, such slaves having been part of the dower paid Martin by James Donnom. Elizabeth named her father, James Donnom, and her uncle, John Mitchell, Esquire, as her executors, with default to her husband, Nathan Brownson, on the failure of her named executors. Elizabeth designated her husband, Nathan, to be guardian of her presumed only living child, James Donnom Martin. It should be noted that this LWT was witnessed by James Dunwoody, Esther Dunwoody and Mary Ann Ladson.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., pp. 154-7.

<sup>26</sup> The Published Records of Midway Church, Dr. James Stacy, 1894, p. 277

Mary Ann Ladson (nee Dean) was a sister of Esther (Dean) Dunwoody, and wife of James Ladson, who was descended from a prominent pioneer family from Colleton County, SC. James and Esther Dunwoody are highly relevant and important to this investigation. Dr. James Dunwoody was one of the first trained medical doctors to practice in the Liberty County area, preceded only by Dr. Lyman Hall of Wallingford, CT. The date of Dr. Dunwoody's arrival in the Province is not known with certainty, but probably occurred sometime between 1766 and 1770. In 1773 James Dunwoody and Nathan Brownson were recorded separating their billable clients, suggesting that they may have been involved in a joint practice that started a few years earlier. On 21Nov1774 Esther Dean Splatt (widow of Edward Splatt) and Dr. James Dunwoody were united in marriage, probably in Midway District. Edward Splatt's death was recorded at Midway Church on 24Jan1774.<sup>27</sup> Edward Splatt wrote his Will on 31Dec1773 at St. Johns Parish, Liberty County, GA (copy attached in Appendix F). Aside from a \$500 annual annuity to his mother, Edward Splatt bequeathed the balance of his estate to his wife, Esther, unconditionally. Esther was also appointed and qualified as sole Executrix.

Edward Splatt's Will was witnessed by Dr. Lyman Hall, Edward Ball and Josiah Bacon, all members of the Midway Congregation. Lyman Hall was born in Wallingford, CT in 1724 and graduated from Yale University in 1747 with the intent of becoming a minister. After a few years performing ministerial duties at various churches in Connecticut, he decided to change his profession to medicine. He entered an apprenticeship and began to practice medicine around 1752. He married his first wife, Abigail Burr, of Fairfield, CT in 1752. Following Abigail's death in 1753, Dr. Hall later married Mary Osborne in 1757. Dr. Hall and his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife then removed to Dorchester, SC, and then on to Midway, Liberty County, GA. Lyman Hall was elected to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress in 1775 from St. Johns Parish, Liberty County, GA, was one of three Georgians to sign the Declaration of Independence, and was elected Governor of Georgia in 1783, a position he held for one year. Needless to say, those were turbulent times, and Dr. Lyman Hall was at the center of, and a driving force in, the forging of a new nation.

Dr. James Stacy reported the following detail about the relationship between Dr. Dunwoody and Dr. Nathan Brownson:

"Nathan Brownson, a practicing physician, introduced into the county [Liberty] by Dr. [James] Dunwoody, surgeon in Georgia Brigade, a member of the provincial congress in 1775, and of continental congress in 1776-8, elected governor (of Georgia) in 1781, and a member of the convention framing the constitution in 1789."<sup>28</sup>

Whereas, Charles Colcock Jones offered the following account:

"It was upon the invitation of Dr. John Dunwody that Dr. Nathan Brownson became a resident of St. John's Parish in the Province of Georgia, and there entered upon the practice of his profession."<sup>29</sup>

There is a subtle distinction to be made between these two accounts by Stacy and Jones. *Introduction into the County* implies that Dr. Dunwody, having arrived in Liberty County several years before Dr. Brownson, may simply have *introduced* him to the community upon

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<sup>27</sup> Ibid., p. 276.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., p. 113.

<sup>29</sup> Biographical Sketches of the Delegates from Georgia to the Continental Congress, Charles Colcock Jones, 1891, p. 11.

Brownson's arrival, whereas Jones' account reports that Dr. Brownson was *invited* to Liberty County by Dunwody. The subtle, but important, distinction between these accounts is that Jones implies a prior acquaintance between the two young doctors. Since Jones' account was penned a few years earlier than Stacy's, it might be presumed that Jones' account was more accurate, perhaps based on some actual knowledge of the circumstances. However, one correction to Jones' account is necessary. It was Dr. James Dunwody, and not Dr. John Dunwody, who extended the invitation to Dr. Brownson. The cause of this discrepancy may be attributed to the fact that Dr. Dunwoody was variously reported in the colonial records, sometimes as John and other times as James.

James Dunwoody was the 5<sup>th</sup> of seven (and eldest male) children born to John Dunwody and Susannah Cresswell in Chester County, PA in about 1741. The children of John Dunwody and Susannah Cresswell are believed to have been in order of age as follows:

- Margaret
- Susannah
- Sarah
- James (b. ~ 1741)
- John
- Robert
- Rebecca

John Dunwody was an Irish immigrant from Londonderry, Ireland, who probably immigrated into the Pennsylvania Colony through Newport, Delaware in about 1730-35. The first record of John Dunwody in the colonies is believed to have been in the 1737 tax records of Londonderry Township, PA. By 1740 John Dunwody appeared in the tax records of West Nantmeal Township as a married man. The Will of William Cresswell of "Derry" [Londonderry] Township mentions his daughter Susannah, wife of John Dunwody, to who was devised the sum of one pound. Family history has it that John Dunwody first worked in the new colony as a school master at Fagg's Manor, where Susannah Cresswell was his pupil. Such location of employment is not born out by tax records as discussed later. Lore also has it that Dunwody married his pupil, Susannah Cresswell, aged only 16 years old. John and Susannah Dunwody appeared in a few land records from West Nantsmeal in the 1760's, where he was assessed in 1764 in possession of 276 acres (the tract bequeathed to sons, Robert and John Jr.). John Dunwody died at West Nantmeal on 17Sep1776 at the age of 69 years where his body reposes at Brandywine Manor Church cemetery. He left a Will which is included in Appendix G.

John Dunwoody wrote his Last Will and Testament at West Nantmeal dated 17Sep1776. According to a witness, one Ann Craig, sworn under oath before Thomas Taylor, Register of Court at West Town on 18Jun1777, she had seen on 18Sep1776 the signed and sealed LWT of John Dunwoody, witnessed by James Anderson and James Leggett, and that it was the same as in possession of the Court, excepting "the fourth bequest". On that same date appearing under oath before the same Registrar, James Anderson and James Leggett attested to their having witnessed the LWT of John Dunwoody, probably on 17Sep1776. Neither Anderson nor Leggett made mention of the exception identified by Ann Taylor. Apparently the exception noted by Ann Taylor was upheld, as the final version of the LWT proved by the Court 12 years later did not contain that bequest. The excepted bequest noted by Ann Taylor read as follows:



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“ITEM, I give & bequeath unto my son James Dunwoody the sum of Five Shillings.”

The significance of this deleted bequest is that it clearly identifies James Dunwoody as the son of John Dunwoody of West Nantmeal, and the elimination of his bequest from the LWT comports with James Dunwoody having been Dr. James Dunwoody, who was then residing in Liberty County, GA.

N.B. It was common practice during colonial times to make a token bequest (in this instance, the sum of 5 schillings) to all living heirs not slated for a substantial share of the testators estate, thereby foreclosing the possibility of a legal challenge by an heir who might otherwise argue inadvertent omission. By their inclusion in the Will, even for a token sum, they would be foreclosed from filing a legal protest.

John Dunwoody left token amounts of 5 schillings each to his married daughters, with the bulk of his estate both real and personal to his sons, Robert and John Jr. He also bequeathed to his unmarried daughter, Sarah, 50 pounds and personal property, presumably for her dower, should she marry.

According to James Anderson, he had been in the home of John Dunwoody on the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> of September, 1776 at which time John Dunwoody summoned his son, Robert, to fetch his LWT for signature. John Dunwoody then perused the Will, and requested James Anderson to witness his signing and sealing of same. It would appear that John Dunwoody had written his Will at some previous date and, being near death, determined it was time to sign the document in the presence of witnesses. According to John Dunwoody's grave marker, he died on 17Sep1776, the day after he signed his Will.

At the time of John's death, his widow, Susannah Cresswell, was about 55 years old. No grave marker has been found for Susannah Cresswell Dunwoody. Some researchers have reported from family lore that Susannah Cresswell Dunwoody travelled to Screven County Georgia with the family of her youngest son, Robert Dunwoody, where she reportedly died and is buried somewhere in the vicinity of Black Creek, southeast of the town of Newington.

Little is known of Dr. James Dunwoody before he appeared in Liberty County, GA in 1773 at the age of about 32 years. From the client list compiled in 1773, it would appear that Dr.'s Dunwoody and Brownson had been engaged in a joint practice in St. Johns Parish for at least a couple of years. If Dr. Dunwoody invited Dr. Brownson to Georgia as suggested by Charles Colcock Jones, it would seem that Dr. Dunwoody may have been in Georgia from before 1770. Whether James Dunwoody attended college is unknown, but he had the good fortune of having lived within about 40 miles of Philadelphia, the home of some of the best physicians in the colonies. It was at Philadelphia under the tutelage of Dr. Benjamin Rush that Dr. Lyman Hall received his training. It seems probable that James Dunwoody may also have received his medical training and early practice at Philadelphia before relocating to Georgia. The channel through which Dr. Dunwoody may have established a prior acquaintance with Dr. Brownson is unknown. Suffice it to say that they became very close lifelong colleagues and friends in Georgia.



Medical doctors appear to have been highly esteemed by their fellow colonialists in Georgia in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Of the three persons selected to represent Georgia at the Continental Congress convened at Philadelphia in 1776 were two medical doctors: Lyman Hall and Button Gwinnett, both New England transplants and residents of St. Johns Parish, the third having been George Walton, a Virginia transplant who was trained as an attorney and admitted to the Georgia bar in 1774. Georgia's first Provincial Council met in the summer of 1775 briefly described as follows:

"In Georgia the first Council of Safety was appointed at a meeting of the principal friends of liberty held in Savannah on June 22, 1775, with William Ewen as President. On July 4, 1775, a Provincial Congress, in which every parish and district was represented, met at Tondee's Long Room (N. W. corner of Broughton and Whitaker Streets) and elected Archibald Bulloch, President, and George Walton, Secretary."<sup>30</sup>

St. Johns Parish was represented at this first Provincial Congress by James Screven, **Nathan Brownson**, Daniel Roberts, John Baker Sr., John Bacon Sr., James Maxwell, Edward Ball, William Baker Sr., William Bacon Jr., John Stephens and John Winn Sr. The 1<sup>st</sup> Provincial Congress of Georgia having initially met on July 4<sup>th</sup> 1775 and having elected Archibald Bulloch, President and George Walton, Secretary and confirming its representative members, it proceeded with the most urgent business at hand: drafting of a resolution, affirming, among other things, its concurrence with the Bill of Rights adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> Continental Congress which met in 1774, adoption of an embargo on all British imports and exports in alliance with the other twelve British American colonies, and the designation of a day of fasting and prayer for an amenable resolution to the current distresses between the colonies and the Crown. This resolution was presented to Governor Wright on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of July Governor Wright responded with a rather terse rebuke of the so-called Provincial Congress as an *unconstitutional body*, but acquiesced to the request for a day of prayer and fasting. Not being deterred by the rejection of the Royal Governor, the Provincial Congress continued in session on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July and selected five members of its body as delegates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress, which had been convened in Philadelphia in May 1775. Those delegates included John Houstoun and Archibald Bulloch, Esq's, the Reverend Dr. John Joaquin Zubly, Noble Wimberly Jones and Lyman Hall, Esq's., or any three of them.

Before returning to Nathan Brownson, it will be useful to introduce a brief description of the evolutionary development of governance in Georgia during colonial times. From its inception in 1732<sup>31</sup> until 1752<sup>32</sup>, Georgia had a proprietary form of government subject to the dictates of a Board of Trustees based in London. The original Georgia Charter was primarily the brainchild of James Edward Oglethorpe, who at the time was a sitting member of Parliament from his home town of Godalming in Surrey. Oglethorpe was a well-established advocate of prison reform, and saw the creation of a new province on the south coast of North America as an opportunity to provide a new beginning for the vast underclasses of England, particularly those who languished and died in debtors prison. Using a £5,000 grant (source unknown) and the trust created from the estate of one Dr. Thomas Bray, Oglethorpe and a few close friends, including John Lord Viscount Percival in about 1729 set about the crafting of a draft charter for the establishment of the Georgia Province. This charter, among other things, held the following principals:

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<sup>30</sup> Collections of the Georgia Historical Society, Vol. V, Part I, DAR, 1901 p. iv.

<sup>31</sup> The year Parliament approved the Georgia Charter.

<sup>32</sup> The year the Trustees resigned their Charter to the Crown.

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“The charter created a corporate body called a Trust and provided for an unspecified number of Trustees who would govern the colony from England. Seventy-one men served as Trustees during the life of the Trust. The Trustees were forbidden by the charter from holding office or [owning] land in Georgia, nor were they paid...Twelve Trustees attended the first meeting on July 20, 1732, at the Georgia office in the Old Palace Yard, conveniently close to Westminster. Committees were named to solicit contributions and interview applicants to the new colony. On November 17, 1732, seven Trustees bade farewell to Oglethorpe and the first settlers as they left from Gravesend aboard the *Anne*. The Trustees succeeded in obtaining £10,000 from the government in 1733 and lesser amounts in subsequent years. Georgia was the only American colony that depended on Parliament's annual subsidies.”<sup>33</sup>

Under Oglethorpe's direction and with assistance from a company of South Carolina Rangers and slaves, the early footprint of this fledgling colony was carved out a Georgia pine forest atop Yamacraw Bluff in the form of a town site on the south bank of the Savannah River, almost 15 miles inland from Tybee Island. Over the next nine years James Oglethorpe nursed and cajoled his colony into existence. Under his tenure, and the only Trustee to ever set foot in this new colony, James Oglethorpe acted as “governor”, “emperor”, “commander-in-chief”, and “treasurer and exchequer”, all without the benefit of any official title other than “Trustee”. Unlike his fellow trustees, Oglethorpe represented the “boots on the ground” and was faced with many hardships and harsh realities. Consequently, he had to make “adjustments” to the official charter. One adjustment included allowing admittance to dozens of Jewish immigrants, who were seeking refuge from persecution and exile on the European Continent. These Jewish immigrants, although expressly prohibited under the terms of the Charter, formed the backbone for growth and stability of this new colony through their industry, intellect, skills and business acumen. Also among the earliest settlers were relatively large numbers of Germans, Salzbergers and Swiss refugees, who established communities at Ebenezer, Abercorn, Vernonburg and Acton. Almost from the outset, large numbers of Scots were also encouraged to emigrate, mostly from the Strathnairn region near Inverness to establish an outpost on Georgia's southern frontier at Darien.

In its formative years Georgia relied almost exclusively on its Trustees for funding, which was always insufficient to deal with the plethora of demands inherent to this isolated and vulnerable new colony. Food, clothing, utensils, implements, seed, livestock, all the basic necessities for survival were in short supply, and almost entirely imported, not to mention the means of protection against hostile forces such as the Spaniards ensconced at St. Augustine and the indigenous peoples who held prior claim to this land. Oglethorpe was committed to the success of his colony and took great personal risk by mortgaging his own estate to raise funds. In 1737, following one of his many visits to England to plead for support, Oglethorpe was rewarded by King George II with a military appointment to the rank of Colonel and a regiment of British soldiers. Curiously, Oglethorpe was also granted the title: “*General and Commander in Chief of all and singular his Majesty's provinces of Carolina and Georgia*”.

After two failed attempts to drive the Spaniards from St. Augustine in 1740 and 1743, General Oglethorpe returned to England to face a Court's Marshal. Fully acquitted of all charges, Oglethorpe remained in England, never to return to his beloved colony. Following is a brief description of the final 10 years of the Georgia Charter:

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<sup>33</sup> <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/trustee-georgia-1732-1752>, accessed 13Feb2015.

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“When Oglethorpe became preoccupied with the Spanish war, [James] Vernon [founding Trustee] proposed the plan of dividing the colony into two provinces, Savannah and Frederica, each with a president and magistrates. The Trustees named William Stephens president in Savannah, and he served until 1751, when he was replaced by Henry Parker in the final year of the Trust's tenure. Oglethorpe neglected to name a president for Frederica, and the magistrates there were instructed to report to Stephens. The Trustees did not want to appoint a single governor because the King in council had to approve the appointment of governors, and the Trustees preferred to keep control in their hands. After Egermont's [John Percival] retirement in 1742, Vernon became the indispensable man. He missed only 4 of 114 meetings during the last nine years of the Trust and supervised the removal of restrictions on land tenure, rum, and slavery.”<sup>34</sup>

The first General Assembly of Georgia was convened in Savannah on 15Jan1751. Following is a list of the established electoral districts and the members elected from each of those districts:

*Savannah* – Francis Harris (Speaker), John Milledge, William Francis and William Russell

*Augusta* – George Catogan and David Douglass

*Ebenezer* – Christian Reidlesperger and Theobald Kieffer

*Abercorn and Goshen* – William Ewen

*Joseph's Town* – Charles Watson

*Vernonburg* – [Sir] Patrick Houston

*Acton* – Peter Morel

*Little Ogechee* – Joseph Summers

*Skidaway* – John Barnard

*Medway* – Audley Maxwell

*Darien* – John B. McIntosh

On 20Jun1752 the trustees resigned their charter of Georgia, which effectively returned control to the Crown. Suffice it to say that the transition to royal governance of Georgia was somewhat muddled. In 1754 a royal order instructed the Governor to convene a General Assembly which excluded several of the most populous villages in the province. The Governor's council divided the province into three districts, and on 7Jan1755 the first Legislature of Georgia was convened at Savannah consisting of three branches: the Governor, Governor's Council, and a Commons House or General Assembly.

On 15Mar1758 the General Assembly approved a resolution which divided the province into eight parishes as follows: *Christ Church* (including Savannah, Acton, Vernonburg, Sea Islands and Little Ogechee), *St. Matthew's* (Abercorn and Ebenezer), *St. George* (embracing Halifax District), *St. Paul's* (Augusta), *St. Phillip's* (Great Ogechee), *St. John's* (Medway and Sunbury), *St. Andrew's* (Darien), and *St. James* (Frederica). In 1765 the territory below the Altamaha was further divided into four additional parishes of *St. David*, *St. Patrick*, *St. Thomas* and *St. Mary*. Christ Church Parish boundaries were generally as follows:

“That is to say, the Town and District of Savannah, extending up the River Savannah, including the Islands therein, as far as the South East boundary of Goshen, from thence in a South West Line to the River Great Ogechee, and from the Town of Savannah Eastward, as far as the Mouth of the River Savannah, including the Sea Islands to the Mouth of the River Great Ogechee, and all the Settlements on the North Side the said River, to the Western boundaries thereof, shall be and forever continue a Parish, by the Name of the Parish of Christ Church...”

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<sup>34</sup> <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/trustee-georgia-1732-1752>, accessed 13Feb2015.

This parish structure remained in place until the declaration of independence from royal governance in 1776, at which time the revolutionary council resolved to establish a county structure to supplant the old parish structure, with Chatham County replacing Christ Church Parish, Effingham County replacing St. Matthews Parish, and Liberty County replacing St. Johns and St. Philips Parish. The boundaries of these original eight counties remained unchanged until 1790 when Elbert County was carved from Wilkes County and Columbia County from Richmond County. Franklin and Washington Counties were added in 1784.

The General Assembly under the direction of the Royal Governor continued to operate right up to the start of the Revolutionary War. Chatham County continued to hold eight electoral seats in the Assembly, very much like the structure and form of the original Assembly that was convened in 1751: four seats from Savannah and one seat each from the communities of Little Ogechee, Acton, Vernonburg and the Sea Islands. The boundaries of these “townships” is not known with any degree of certainty, but may be generally deduced from William DeBrahm’s 1756 map, an excerpt of which is contained in Figure 7-6. As can be seen from this map, Little Ogechee encompassed the largest area of the five electoral districts established within Christ Church Parish, but its population was distributed across relatively large plantation tracts, rather than concentrated within smaller townships like Savannah, Acton and Vernonburg. The townships of Acton and Vernonburg were established primarily to accommodate specific ethnic populations of poor German and Swiss immigrants, who were allotted only 50 acres per household. These Germans and Swiss were primarily craftsmen and tradesmen, who worked at various businesses and trades within Savannah. Acton and Vernonburg could be looked on as “bedroom” or suburban communities which provided butchers, bakers, tallow workers, cheesemongers, shoemakers, tailors, leatherdressers, etc. for the growing urbanized population and trade center of Savannah.

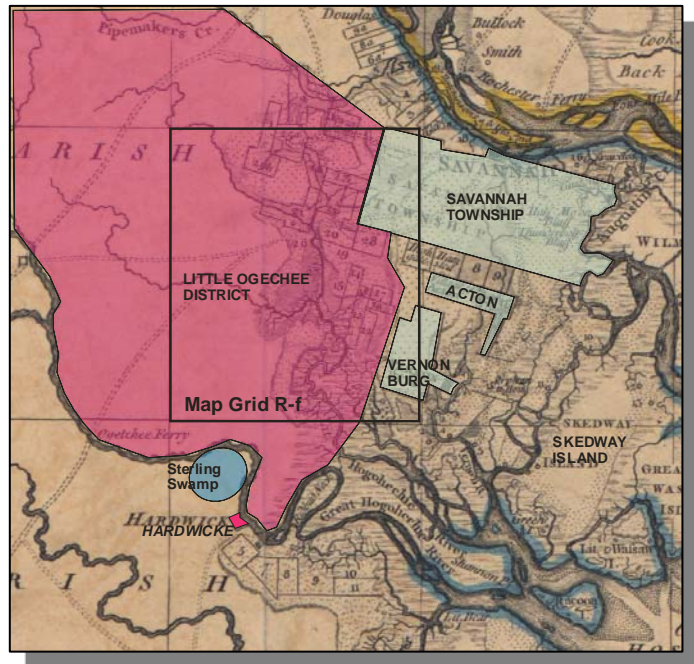


Figure 7-6  
Christ Church Parish Electoral Districts ~ 1770's

The populations of Little Ogechee and Skidaway Island, on the other hand, were composed primarily of planters and ranchers. Rice cultivation was its main industry, but because of its relatively close proximity to Savannah, it also became the country home of many of the leading professionals from Savannah, including its share of attorneys, medical doctors, clergymen, civic leaders and traders and merchants. The earliest grants on the Little Ogechee were situated along the north side of its north branch, but fairly quickly spread southwesterly to fill the void between the forks of the Little Ogechee and on to the Great Ogechee. The author had to guess at the



boundaries of the Little Ogechee district, but a review of early land grants and deed documents suggest that it probably ranged between the southwestern boundary of Savannah Township and the north bank of the Great Ogechee, and extending northerly to the south boundary of St. Matthew's Parish as illustrated in Figure 7-6.

DeBrahm's map, created in 1756, contained the location of several property owners within Grid- Rf of Little Ogechee as listed in Figure 7-7.

It was in the midst of this social and governmental upheaval that Elizabeth Dunnom Martin Brownson died, and that Nathan Brownson married his 3<sup>rd</sup> wife, Elizabeth Jervey McLean, widow of John McLean. The exact date of the marriage between Nathan Brownson and Elizabeth McLean is not known with certainty. An approximate date can be gleaned from a prenuptial agreement dated 10Apr1776, transcript of which is attached in Appendix H. This tripartite agreement foretold of the impending marriage between Elizabeth McLean

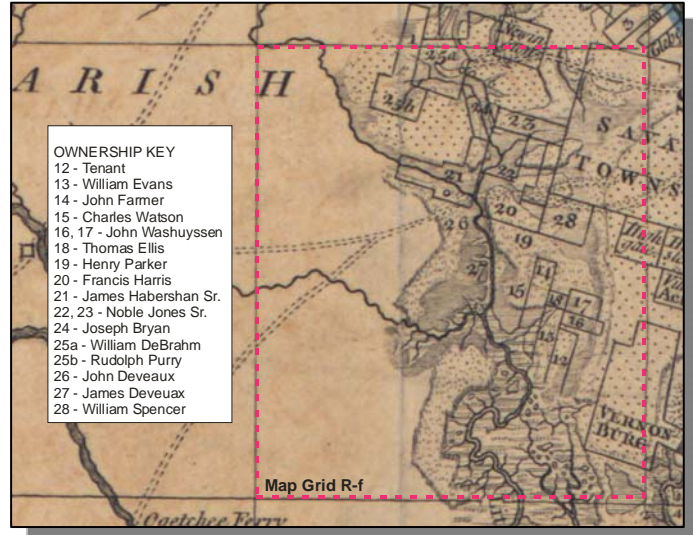


Figure 7-7  
Little Ogechee Land Owners ~ 1757

(widow of Christ Church Parish, Little Ogechee), party of the 1<sup>st</sup> part, Nathan Brownson of St. Johns Parish, party of the 2<sup>nd</sup> part, and Benjamin Andrew Sr. (attorney of St. Johns Parish) and Josiah Dupont (South Carolina planter) parties of the 3<sup>rd</sup> part. It is reasonable to think that this marriage occurred within a few weeks after the date of this indenture, say May, 1776. This agreement placed the property of Elizabeth McLean in temporary trust with Andrew and Dupont, such estate consisting of 12 slaves and all her household goods and chattels (itemized in the indenture), excluding plate. Said estate then, immediately following the marriage, was to be applied to and for the use of Nathan Brownson and Elizabeth McLean.

It has been reported by many writers that Nathan Brownson owned a tract of approximately 500 acres in St. Johns Parish near Riceboro, but the author was unable to find any record of such acquisition. Given the fact that election to the Provincial Council required members to be "freeholders", it is reasonable to assume that Nathan Brownson had acquired property in St. Johns Parish sometime prior to Jun1775. At the time of his marriage to Elizabeth McLean, Nathan Brownson is known to have had at least two of his own children and that of his step-son, James Donnem Martin, in his guardianship. On the other hand, Elizabeth McLean is believed to have had seven children in her guardianship at the time of this marriage: John Jr., Elizabeth (wife of Alexander Creighton, loyalist), Margaret, Josiah, Andrew, Jervey and Sarah, all of whom were named in the LWT of John McLean (copy attached as Appendix I). In his Will, John McLean identified Margaret McLean, Josiah McLean, Sarah McLean, Andrew McLean and Jervey McLean as being under the age of 21 years. So, it is clear that the marriage between



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Nathan Brownson and Elizabeth McLean would have resulted in a household containing perhaps as many as nine step-children.

Elizabeth McLean [nee Jervey] is believed to have been born 8Feb1739 to John Jervey and Elizabeth Gilbert at St. Helena Parish, SC based on the following church records:

- Jervey, John, bach, married by Do. Mar: 16, 1736 Elizabeth Gilbert, spin.
- Jervey, John, Sn. of John & Elizabeth, born Aug: 28, 1738; bapt: Dec. 11, 1738 by Do. bur: 14 Sept: 1739.
- **Jervey, Eliz:** Da. of John & Elizabeth born Feb: 8, 1739; bapt: Mar. 16, 1739, by Do. *Presumed wife John McLean.*
- Hatcher, James, Son. of James and Sarah born Nov: 27, 1741; bapt: Nov: 30, 1741 by Do.; mar: Sept: 30, 1758 **Jane Jervey [sister of Elizabeth].**

John McLean is reported by many researchers to have been born about 1715 at Inverness, Scotland. However, there are vital statistic records from St. Helena Parish, SC church register to suggest otherwise. In this church register are found the following vital statistic records believed to have belonged to John McLean's family:

- **McLane, John,** Son: Allen & Margt.-born July 17, 1725, bapt: by Orr Dissentor, married by Boskey of Pon Pon Sept: 28, 1748, **Elizabeth Page**, Spinster. *Given that the marriage of John McLean and Elizabeth Page occurred at PonPon church, it seems probable that James Donnom would have known the McLean family.*
- McLane, Sarah, Da. of Allen & Margt. born May 19, 1727; bapt: June 19, 1727 by Do. Edmund Ellis, Eliz: Serjeant, & Sarah Hardwick sureties. Bur: 28, Feby: 1739. *Sister of John McLean.*
- McLane, Allen, Son. of Allen & Margt. born May 23, 1728; bapt. June 25, 1729 by Do. Rowland Serjeant and Parents sureties. *Brother of John McLean.*
- McLane, George, Sn. of Allen & Margt. born Feb: 1730, bapt. Apr: 25, 1731 by Dyson, Rev. Edwd. Dyson, Jas: Watt & Lavina Lavis sureties. Bur: 2 July 1733. *Brother of John McLean.*
- McLane, Charles, Sn. of Allen & Margt. born Jan: 6, 1732, bapt: Apr: 1, 1733 by Jones; Jas: Wyatt surety. *Brother of John McLean.*
- McLane, Margt. Da. of Allen & Margt. born Dec: 17, 1734; bapt: Mar: 2, 1734 by Do. Bur: 8 Jan: 1739. *Sister of John McLean.*
- McLane, Martha, Spin. Da. of Allen & Margt. born Aug: 5, 1736; bapt: Nov: 14, 1736 by Do.; married Aug: 2, 1752, Thomas Stone, bach. *Sister of John McLean.*
- McLane, Alexander, Sn. of Allen & Margt. born Aug: 23, 1738, bapt: Oct: 14, 1738 by Do. Bur: 24 May, 1744. *Brother of John McLean.*
- McLane, Allen, father to above, born 1696 buried by Do. 8 Nov. 1743. *John McLean's father.*
- Givens, John, bach: Son. of Phillip & Hannah, born Feb. 8, 1726, bapt: Mar. 19, 1726 by Jones; Richard Hancock, **Allen McLane [son of Allen McLean and Margaret]** & Eliz. Seargean sureties. Married Sept: 18, 1751 by Jones, Mary Stone, spin. Bur: 17 Oct: 1785 Fever.
- Hatcher, William, Son. of James and Sarah born Mar: 25, 1732; bapt: Oct: 1, 1732 by Do. Thos: & Ann Stone [parents of Thomas Stone Jr.,] who married **Martha McLane** & **Allen McLane** sureties; bur: 14 Oct: 1737.

From the foregoing records it would appear that John McLean was born in St. Helena Parish, SC on 17Jul1725, the eldest child of Allen and Margaret McLane [aka McLean]. Although the surname in the foregoing records is spelled "McLane", the author has good reason to believe this to have been records for John McLean, his siblings, and father, Allen McLean. The basis for connecting this family to John McLean is the fact that there were several other trailing records

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for a John McLane and Elizabeth Page in this same parish, several children of which match very closely to the children named in the LWT of John McLean as listed below:

- Page, Elizabeth, Da. of John and Hester born Aug. 9, 1727, bapt. April 15, 1728 by Do. Rowland Sarjeant, Eliz: Stone & Anne Levy Sureties. Married by Boskey Sept. 28, 1748, **John McLane**. *Marriage of John McLean and his 1<sup>st</sup> wife, Elizabeth Page.*
- McLane, \_\_\_\_\_, [probably **John Jr.**] Son. John & Eliz. born Mar: 23, 1750, bapt. Sept: 29, 1751 by Peasely.  
*Although the given name of this son is omitted from the register, it seems probable that this was the birth record for John McLean Jr.*
- McLane, **Elizabeth**, Da. John & Elizabeth, born Aug. 22, 1752, Bapt. Nov. 16, 1752, by Peasely, Parents sureties.  
*This is the daughter believed to have married Alexander Creighton, a reputed loyalist.*
- McLane, **Sarah**, Da. of John & Eliz. born July 23, 1749.  
*Since John McLean's LWT indicates a daughter named Sarah, who was still a minor in Jul1773, it is probable that this Sarah died, and another daughter born later was also named Sarah.*
- McLane, **Margaret**, Da. of John & Eliz. born Dec. 19, 1754, Bapt. Apr. 17, 1755 by Peasely.  
*The date of birth of this Margaret would have her aged 18 years and still a minor in Jul1773, consistent with John McLean's LWT.*
- McLane, **Josiah**, Sn. of John & Elizabeth, born Apl. 13, 1757, bapt. by Lewis, born in Pr. WilPm Parish.  
*The birth date of this Josiah would have him aged 16 years and still a minor in Jul1773, consistent with John McLean's LWT.*

N. B.: Alexander Creighton was a Savannah merchant and innkeeper, who married Elizabeth McLean, daughter of John McLean and Elizabeth Page, sometime before 21Jul1773 when John Mclean made his LWT. Following are several records related to Alexander Creighton:

- On September 16, 1769, a group of Georgia merchants, many of whom were from Savannah, met at the home of Alexander Creighton and decided to no longer import British goods rather than pay the duties on British imports.
- 7Dec1768 – Georgia Gazette (Savannah) – Wednesday last being St. Andrew's Day, in the forenoon the St. Andrew's Club met at the house of Mr. Alexander Creighton, and made choice of the following Gentlemen to their officers for the current year, viz., The Honorable Lewis Johnson, Esq., President; the Honorable James MacKay, Esq., Vice President; Mr. John Simpson of Sunbury and Dr. James Cuthbert, Assistants; and Mr. Henry Preston, Clerk. A Genteel entertainment was provided on the occasion, at which were present, his Excellency the Governor, the Honorable Noble Jones, Esq., Senior Assistant Judge of the Court, and several gentlemen strangers in the province.
- 19Apr1781 – Royal Georgia Gazette (Savannah) – Alexander Creighton was listed as a member of the Grand Jury of the Royal Government of King George.
- 2Dec1790 – Georgia Gazette (Savannah) – Sheriff's Sales, To be sold, on the Bay in Sunbury, the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1790, between the hours of 10 and 11 in the forenoon: One half of the island originally known as Smith's Island, now Creighton's – At the same time and place will be sold, 20 head of horses, and nine valuable negroes – seized under execution as the property of Alexander Crighton, Esq. By order of Lachlin McIntosh, S.C.L. [Alexander Creighton was listed in the Bill of Attainment in 1782 as a Loyalist, whose properties were forfeit.]

In his LWT, John McLean made a bequest of the residue of his estate to five children: Margaret McLean, Josiah McLean, Sarah McLean, Andrew McLean and Jervey McLean, indicating that these children were minors. Note that the foregoing birth names and dates of three of the four named children of John and Elizabeth McLane from St. Helena's Parish records all match with the minor children listed in John McLean's LWT, with the exception of Sarah's birth in 1749. It seems probable that that Sarah, born in 1749 must have died and another daughter was born later and christened with the same name. From these records it might also be construed that Andrew

and Jervey were born after Josiah. So, based on these records from St. Helena Parish it is possible to establish a birth order and birth dates for the children named in the LWT of John McLean as follows:

1. Sarah, born 23Jul1749, died about 1758
2. John Jr., born 23Mar1750
3. Elizabeth, born 22Aug1752 (married Alexander Creighton)
4. Margaret, born 19Dec1754
5. Josiah, born 13Apr1757
6. Sarah, born after 1759
7. Andrew, born about 1760
8. Jervey, born after 1760

It is known that Elizabeth McLean Brownson gave birth to a son named James Dunwoody Brownson, about Oct1778. John McLean's wife, Elizabeth Page, is reported in the St. Helena Parish records to have been born 9Aug1727. Elizabeth Page would have been much too old (51 years old) to have given birth to James Dunwoody Brownson, so it seems highly probable that Elizabeth McLean, widow of John McLean, was not Elizabeth Page. Consequently, it must be assumed that Elizabeth Page died sometime after the birth of Josiah on 13Apr1757, and that John McLean then married Elizabeth Jervey sometime around 1758 to 1760. The basis for assuming Elizabeth Page's death at around 1758 is that her death and the birth of other children were not recorded in the St. Helena Parish church register. Further, John McLean filed a petition for a land grant on the Great Ogechee River in 1759 in which he reported having only four children:

1. "Jul1759 – Read a petition of **John McLean** setting forth that he proposed to settle in this Province (Georgia) with a considerable number of slaves and was desirous to obtain a reserve of lands. Therefore praying that 600 acres on Pipemaker's Swamp adjoining the west line of land granted to **Henry Bourquin** might be reserved for him for six months in which time he should remove hither with his family."<sup>35</sup> *The Council recommended approval with restrictions. Note that on this same date Thomas Sacheverel was granted three tracts totaling 2,000 acres abutting tract requested by John McLean, and situated at head of Little Ogechee River. Apparently, Sacheverel's grants caused John McLean to change the location of his proposed grant as follows:*
2. "Nov1760 – Read a petition of **John McLean** setting forth that he had had a warrant for surveying 500 acres of land upon a branch of Pipemaker's Creek, which land was found unfit for cultivation, all the good land there adjoining having been run out by Mr. Thomas Sacheverel, therefore he did not execute his warrant, and had no land besides granted him in the Province and a family consisting of **a wife, four children** and fourteen negroes. Therefore praying for 500 acres on Great Ogechee below lands there granted **Jonathan Bryan, Esq.**<sup>36</sup> *Requested grant was approved for 500 acres. Note that only four children were listed in the household, suggesting the one of the five children recorded as born in St. Helena Parish had died (Probably the daughter named Sarah).*

Note that John McLean reported having only four children in Nov1760. This number of children comports with the notion that the daughter, Sarah, had died young, and was supplanted by another daughter of the same name a few years later. The children reported in John McLean's household in 1760 probably consisted of John Jr., Elizabeth, Margaret and Josiah. Whether John McLean's first wife was deceased by the date of this grant petition is unknown, but possible.

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<sup>35</sup> The Colonial Records of the State of Georgia, Volume VIII, Alan D. Chandler, 1907, p. 68.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 460-1.

Elizabeth Jervey was born in St. Helena Parish, SC on 8Feb1739 to John Jervey and Elizabeth Gilbert.<sup>37</sup> Jean Hatcher, who witnessed the prenuptial agreement between Nathan and Elizabeth, is believed to have been Elizabeth Jervey's older sister, wife of James Hatcher. It is not known with certainty just when John McLean and Elizabeth Jervey were married, but very likely sometime between the two following grants:

3. "Sep1762 – Read a petition of **John McLean** setting forth that he had had 500 acres granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract having **five children** and 16 negroes. Therefore praying for 400 acres at the upper end of Stralaughlin's Swamp in St. Andrew's Parish joining west on land granted the Widow Graham and north on land of George MackIntosh. Resolved that petition should be granted."<sup>38</sup> *In this grant no mention is made of a wife, but there are now five children and 16 negroes. This suggest that John's first wife, Elizabeth Page had died sometime in the interim between Nov1760 and Sep1762, and that a new child had been born to this couple. The identity of the new child in this household is uncertain, but very likely was either the second Sarah or Andrew. The son Jervey was almost certainly a child of Elizabeth Jervey, yet to be born.*
4. "Mar1765 – Read a petition of **John McLean** setting forth that he had been many years in the Province had had only 460 acres of land granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract having a **wife, five children** and 21 slaves. Therefore praying for 950 acres on the south side of Great Satilla River, six miles above Old Town bounding on Buck Horn Creek. Request was granted with usual stipulations."<sup>39</sup> *From this record it might be construed that John McLean and Elizabeth Jervey had married sometime in the interval between Sep1762 and May1765, and that no children had yet been born from this marriage union. Based on the description of this tract being on the south side of the Great Satilla, it would have fallen within the bounds of St. Mary's Parish. No stream by the name of "Buck Horn" could be found in this area either on past or present maps. The reference to being "about six miles above "Old Town"" is equally inconclusive.*
5. "Aug1765 – Read a petition of **John McLean** setting forth that he had been favoured with 460 acres of land, and also with 950 acres on the south side of Great Satilla which last mentioned tract was since found to be included in a grant to Governor Bull of South Carolina, and was desirous to obtain an additional tract having a **wife, five children** and 25 negroes. Therefore praying for 500 acres on south side of **Buck Head** to adjoin land there ordered Nathan Hooker. Grant approved with usual stipulations."<sup>40</sup> *The location of this tract only references proximity to "Buck Head" and tract ordered to Nathan Hooker. The reference to "Buck Head" ought not be confused with "Buck Horn Creek" cited in earlier grant on south side of Satilla. On reviewing grants during this time period to Nathan Hooker, it is clear that "Buck Head" was actually connected to the Great Ogeechee as described in the following petition:*

"Read a petition of Nathan Hooker... on the south side of Buck Head and north side of Ogeechee, about three miles up the mouth thereof..."<sup>41</sup>

*Based on the suggestion that the subject tract was just three miles above the mouth of the Ogeechee, the author is inclined to believe that "Buck Head" was in reference to the sweeping bend in the Great Ogeechee, just down river from the township of Hardwick as illustrated in Figure 7-8. A similar sweeping bend on the Congaree River just upstream from its confluence with the Wateree River in South Carolina had also been named "Buck Head Neck", presumably because of the resemblance of the land within the sweeping curve of these rivers to that of a Buck's head. Therefore, the description of Hooker's tract having been on the south of "Buck Head" and north of the Ogeechee places these tracts within Christ Church Parish and generally within the Little Ogeechee District as illustrated in Figure 7-8.*

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<sup>37</sup> St. Helena Parish Church Register, published in South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Volume 23, edited by Mabel Louise Webber, 1922, p. 122.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., p. 731.

<sup>39</sup> The Colonial Records of the State of Georgia, Volume IX, Alan D. Chandler, 1907, p. 321.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., p. 391.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., p. 362.



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6. “Sep1765 – Read a petition of **John McLean** setting forth that he had had ordered him 960 acres of land and was desirous to obtain an additional tract having a **wife, five children** and 27 negroes. Therefore praying for 500 acres on the north side of Great Satilla to adjoin land this day petitioned for by Benjamin Farley. Grant approved with usual stipulations.”<sup>42</sup> *Ditto. This Tract very likely fell within St. Patrick’s Parish.*

7. “Jun1766 – Above requested grant expired, so petitioned for an extension on same. Approved.”<sup>43</sup>

8. “Jan1767 – **John McLean** requested yet another extension for 500 acre tract on north side of Great Satilla. Extension granted for two months only.”<sup>44</sup> *Nothing can be ascertained from this petition regarding any changes in the McLean household.*

9. “Mar1767 – Grant for 500 acres in St. Thomas Parish granted to John McLean.”<sup>45</sup> *Ditto. Tract located on south side of Great Satilla.*

10. “Jan1768 – Read a petition of **John McLean** setting forth that he had had granted him 1,460 acres of land and was desirous to obtain an additional tract having a **wife, eight children** and 39 slaves. Therefore praying for 500 acres on the north side of Great Satilla to adjoin land of Branford of South Carolina. Petition granted with usual stipulations.”<sup>46</sup> *There was an increase of three children in the McLean household between Sep1765 and Jan1768. This is one more child than recorded in John McLean’s LWT.*

11. “Aug1769 – Read a petition of **John McLean** setting forth that he had had granted him 2,000 acres of land and was desirous to obtain an additional tract having a **wife, seven children** and 52 slaves. Therefore praying for 500 acres in St. Mary’s Parish on the south side of Great Satilla to adjoin land there ordered Edward Ball and about two miles from land ordered him last Board. The land prayed for to be run in an oblong. Petition granted with usual stipulations.”<sup>47</sup> *Between Jan1768 and Aug1769 there is one less child being reported in the household of John McLean. This suggests that John and Elizabeth Jervey may have had a child, who died in its infancy or that one of the older children was no longer living at home [John McLean Jr.?].*

12. “Sep1769 - Read a petition of **John McLean** setting forth that he had 500 acres of land ordered him at last Board, had had at total of 2,560 acres and was desirous to obtain an additional tract having a **wife, seven children and 52 slaves**. Therefore praying for 500 acres in St. Mary’s Parish on the south side of Great Satilla five miles from land there ordered Charles West. The land prayed for to be run in an oblong. Petition granted with usual stipulations.”<sup>48</sup> *This was the last record found in which the John McLean household was reported with children until John wrote his LWT in Jul1773. The seven children claimed by John McLean comports with the number identified in his LWT.*



Figure 7-8  
Ogeechee – Buck Head Location Map

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., p. 402.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., p. 531.

<sup>44</sup> The Colonial Records of the State of Georgia, Volume X, Alan D. Chandler, 1907, p. 29.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., p. 117.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid., pp. 371-2.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., p. 824.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., p. 859.

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13. Nov1769 – Read a petition of **John McLean** setting forth that he had 500 acres of land ordered him on the south side of Great Satilla to join land granted Edward Ball which when intended to be surveyed was found not vacant. Therefore praying for in lieu thereof 500 acres in St. Mary's Parish to adjoin a like quantity there ordered and surveyed for him on the south side of Great Satilla to be laid out in an oblong the Swamp being narrow. Petition granted with usual stipulations.<sup>49</sup> *This was the last land grant record found for John McLean Sr. However, there was another grant petition abstracted as follows:*
14. "May1771 – Read a petition of **John McLean** setting forth that he had heretofore land granted him on family right but was now possessed of **10 negroes** in the province for whom he had never obtained any land. Therefore praying for 500 acres of land in St. Mary's Parish to adjoin lands already ordered him to be run square.<sup>50</sup> *This would clearly appear to have been a different household from that of John McLean Sr. It seems very likely to have been the household of John McLean Jr. Just 18 months earlier John McLean Sr. had reported owning 52 slaves. This petition makes no specific mention of a wife or children and only 10 slaves. Either this petitioner was John McLean Jr. or someone else of the same name, very likely John McLean Jr.*

From the foregoing land grant records John McLean was granted 2,960 acres over a 10-year period; 960 acres in Christ Church Parish along the Great Ogechee and another 2,000 acres in St. Thomas and St. Mary's Parishes near the Great Satilla [St. Illa] River. These southern grants were at the extreme south end of the Province in the new territory [annexed in 1765] between the Altamaha and the St. Mary's Rivers. In addition, John McLean appears to have purchased a 200 acre tract in Christ Church Parish, which he bequeathed to his son, Josiah; and a town lot in Savannah, which he bequeathed to his daughter, Elizabeth Creighton. It is believed that the John McLean family lived on the 460 acre grant on the north side of the Great Ogechee in the area known as the Little Ogechee District. As John grew his wealth, he extended his planting activities into the Satilla River area, ultimately acquiring 2,000 acres both north and south of the Great Satilla and a total of 52 slaves by Nov1769. He undoubtedly entrusted the operation of his southern plantations to the management of overseers, and possibly to his older sons, John Jr. and Josiah as they reached their majority. John's residence in Little Ogechee can be deduced from several records:

- "Aug1766 – **John McLean**, etal., appointed **Justices of Peace** for Christ Church Parish."<sup>51</sup>
- "15Aug1767 – Taken up by Timothy O'Bannon, at Mr. William McKenzie's plantation, a brown bay horse, about 13.5 hands high, branded... Whoever owns the said horse must apply to and prove his property before **John McLean, J. P., Little Ogechee**."<sup>52</sup>
- "Feb1768 - **John McLean**, etal., appointed Justice of Peace for Christ Church Parish."<sup>53</sup>
- "14Jun1769 – To be rented for due [two?] or four years, the Ferry at Great Ogechee. Any person inclinable to rent the same may treat at **Little Ogechee with John McLean**."<sup>54</sup>
- Ogechee Ferry Act, 1768: This act continued the operation of said Ferry at **Pine Bluff** and established a commission to administer its operations: **James Habersham**, James MacKay, **James Read**, John Millidge, Jonathan Cochran, William Maxwell and **James Butler** (son of Joseph Butler). *James Habersham Jr., James Read and James Butler were three of the four Executors to the LWT of John McLean, discussed hereinafter. John McLean's plantation home is believed to have been situated within a couple of miles of the Ogechee Ferry [aka King's Ferry].*

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<sup>49</sup> Ibid., p. 917.

<sup>50</sup> The Colonial Records of the State of Georgia, Volume XI, Alan D. Chandler, 1907, p. 338.

<sup>51</sup> Volume IX, Ibid., p. 607.

<sup>52</sup> "Georgia Gazette" (Savannah, GA.) Wednesday, 9Sep1767. Issue 207, Page 4.

<sup>53</sup> Volume X, Ibid., p. 428.

<sup>54</sup> "Georgia Gazette" (Savannah, GA.) Wednesday, 14Jun1769. Issue 298, Page 3.



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Roads, Rivers and Creeks Act, 1768

Augusta-Savannah Road – St. Matthews Parish from Southeast to Northwest boundaries, split into two divisions:

- Northwest Division – Lower Part: Clement Martin, **John Adam Treutlen**, John Gasper, Wertsch, Francis Arthur, John Flerl, John Hall and Matthias West.
- Northwest Division – Upper Part: **John Goldwire**, **Phillip Howell**, Isaac Ford, **William Colson** and **Robert Hudson**.

*John Goldwire, Phillip Howell, William Colson and Robert Hudson were all residents of the middle Effingham County region near Hudson's Ferry as discussed hereinafter.*

- St. John's Parish: **William Dunham** and **John Martin**  
*The identity of this John Martin is unknown to the author, but not believed to have had any kinship connection to the husband of Elizabeth Donnom; possibly the same John Martin, who succeeded Nathan Brownson to the governorship in 1782. William Dunham was almost certainly a kinsman of Elizabeth Donnom, perhaps an uncle or nephew.*

29Sep1773 an act was adopted to establish Commissioners of various roads and streams within the Georgia Colony:

- Augusta-Savannah Road – Christ Church Parish from Town of Savannah to Northwest line of Christ Church Parish (near Goshen): **Jonathan Bryan**, Isaac Young, John Simpson and **John Stirk**, Esq.'s, **Nathaniel Hall**, **William Wylly** and **Richard Wylly**.  
*As discussed hereinafter, William and Richard Wylly are believed to have been kinsmen of Thomas Wylly, husband of Naomi Roseburg. Jonathon Bryan was a preeminent planter of the lower Savannah River region, and resident of Walnut Grove Plantation. John Stirk very likely was a kinsman of Benjamin Stirk, husband of Hannah Barksdale. Both Benjamin and Hannah were occupants of Newington Plantation near Goshen, and founders of the Baptist church in Chatham and Effingham County. (more to follow).*
- Augusta-Savannah Road – St. Matthews Parish from Southeast to Northwest boundaries, split into two divisions: Northwest Division – Lower Part (below Tuckasee King Creek): Clement Martin, **John Adam Treutlen**, **John Stirk**, John Wertch, Nicholas Horton, John Hall and Urban Bunt; Northwest Division – Upper Part (above Tuckasee King Creek): **Phillip Howell**, **Phillip Dill**, Joshua Pearce, **Christopher Hudson** and Thomas Flyming. *Ditto.*
- "Little Ogechee Road – Ranging between northern limits of the Savannah Township to the Ferry on Great Ogechee, commissioners were appointed as follows: **James Read**, Esq., **James Habersham Jr.**, **Henry Borquin**, **John McLean**, Stephen Miller, Esq.'s, George DeLegal and **John Fox**."  
*John McLean was a Road Commissioner for Little Ogechee Road, along with two of his named Executors: James Read and James Habersham Jr. Also fellow commissioners were John Fox and his brother-in-law, Henry Bourquin. Later in the discussion of Betsey Brownson it will be shown that a John Fox as a very close friend of the Brownson family, probably a nephew of this John Fox.*

Further evidence of longstanding residence at Little Ogechee is found in John McLean's LWT which identified himself as being of Little Ogechee. The fact that John was appointed Justice of the Peace for his district is a clear indication of the high position of trust that he enjoyed among his neighbors. Further evidence of his social prominence can be inferred from those persons named as his Executors: Hon. James Reed [Read], Joseph Clay Esquire, James Butler (son of Joseph Butler) and James Habersham Junior:

- **James Read, Esq.** – Son of Sir William Read, Baronet and Jane Spalding, born in about 1700, probably at New Castle, DE. Served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, he relocated to Savannah, GA where he met and married Ellen Bond, daughter of James Bond, an early founder and settler of Savannah and member of the King's Council. An interesting anecdote about Capt. James Read:  
"He always bore the title of Captain thereafter, though he resigned as a Lieutenant. He was later engaged in a gallant exploit, capturing a French Privateer that had beaten off a King's ship, boarding her in the night with boats, and himself shooting the captain. He afterwards entertained the [French]

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captain in his own house in Savannah, who was exceedingly grateful to James Read for his generous conduct and presented him with a handsome sword which is still in the family.”<sup>55</sup>

James Read, Esq. owned several large tracts of land, and resided in Little Ogechee District. Among other public offices, he served as a member of the Royal Governor's Council in the early 1770's right up to the time of the Provincial Council having issued an arrest warrant for Royal Governor James Wright and his council. James Read died sometime before the Spring of 1780.

- **Joseph Clay, Esq.** – A native of Yorkshire, Joseph Clay (1741-1804), son of Elizabeth Habersham and Ralph Clay, settled at Savannah at the age of nineteen. His uncle, James Habersham [Sr.], declared that his “Industry” was “highly commendable” and “his Abilities for Trade unquestionable.” Fulfilling his early promise, Clay prospered in Georgia as a merchant and rice planter. [Perhaps, Joseph Clay was most notable as a highly skilled and successful Attorney from Savannah] He was a staunch supporter of American rights, served on the Council of Safety and in the Provincial Congress, and took part in the celebrated raid on the Royal powder magazine at Savannah in 1775 along with Joseph Habersham and several other “Sons of Liberty”. During the Revolutionary War Clay rendered efficient and faithful service to the American cause as deputy paymaster general of the Continental Army for the Southern Department. His career in the Revolution was distinguished by “Virtue & fortitude,” said General James Jackson, who also paid high tribute to Clay's wife Ann for her beneficent care of the American wounded after the Battle of Camden. In the years following the Revolution Joseph Clay held several positions of importance, including state treasurer and judge of the inferior court. He was one of the first trustees for the state college that later became the University of Georgia [as also were James Habersham Jr., John Habersham and Dr. Nathan Brownson]. He died Dec. 15, 1804. Joseph Clay's published letters (1776-1793) constitute a valuable historical source work for the period.<sup>56</sup>
- **James Habersham Jr.** – Cousin of Joseph Clay, Esq., James Habersham Jr. was son of James Habersham Sr. and Mary Bolton. He was a prominent patriot and rebel financier, subsequently Speaker of the Legislature of Georgia, and one of the Trustees of the University of Georgia [along with his brother, John Habersham and Dr. Nathan Brownson]; at his father's encouragement around 1764 James Habersham Jr. entered commercial business with his uncle, Ralph Clay, a prominent London Merchant of that time period... James Habersham Jr.'s Savannah home took almost 10 years to build (completed in 1771) and still stands today as illustrated in Figure 7-9. James Habersham Sr. had large plantation holdings in excess of 7,000 acres, most of which were in Little Ogechee District. James Habersham Jr. and each of his brothers: Joseph and John received large portions of their father's lands from his estate.
- **James Butler** – Not much is known of James Butler other than he is believed to have been a son of Joseph Butler and Mary Laroche, born about 1740 in South Carolina. He owned several medium sized tracts of land in St. Philip's Parish, between the Great Ogechee and Medway River, probably nearby to Conochee Swamp. He may have become affiliated with John McLean by virtue of their having lived in close proximity on opposite sides of the Great Ogechee River. [Further, it seems probable that John McLean owned and operated Ogechee Ferry, on main road between Savannah and Medway]. N.B.: A James Butler Sr. and James Butler Jr. was among the patriot forces killed in the Cloud's Creek Massacre, murdered at the hands of “Bloody Bill” Cunningham. Were those Butlers kinsmen of this James Butler?



Figure 7-9  
Olde Pink House – James Habersham Jr.'s  
Savannah Home

<sup>55</sup> Ancestral Records and Portraits: A Compilation from the Archives..., Volume 2., Colonial Dames of America, 1910, pp. 490-2.

<sup>56</sup> [http://georgiahistory.com/ghmi\\_marker\\_updated/joseph-clay-patriot/](http://georgiahistory.com/ghmi_marker_updated/joseph-clay-patriot/), accessed 17Feb2015.

As can be seen by the character and prominence of the persons chosen as Executors to his estate, John McLean was well acquainted with the highest ranks in the Province: attorneys, merchants, civic leaders and large-scale planters. It seems probable that Elizabeth Jervey McLean would have continued to live on her husband's plantation at Little Ogechee from the time of John McLean's death around Dec1773 until her marriage to Dr. Nathan Brownson on about May1776. Her husband left her an annuity of £20 per annum, plus seven slaves and an eighth share of household goods and chattels. She was permitted "*liberty to live on the plantation where on I [John McLean] now live*" during her life or widowhood. On marrying Nathan Brownson, Elizabeth McLean would have forfeited her annuity and the liberty of her husband's manor. The slaves, goods and chattels were to remain hers, unequivocally, and she protected those assets at her marriage to Nathan Brownson by way of the prenuptial agreement.

Elizabeth was about two years older than Nathan Brownson and would have been about 37 years old when they married. From numerous sources it is known that Nathan Brownson and Elizabeth Jervey McLean had a son named James Dunwoody Brownson, who became a medical doctor, and who married and practiced medicine in St. Helena Parish, SC near the town of Beaufort. No birth record specifically identifying this son has been found. From the Midway Church records it is known that Nathan and Elizabeth had a son born sometime in Oct1778, which was unnamed in that record. In Oct1778 Nathan Brownson had just concluded his participation as a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress at Philadelphia. Later that year, Nathan Brownson entered the service of the Continental Army as a *Hospital Surgeon*. It seems very likely that Nathan Brownson was away from home at the time of the birth of this son, probably in the service of the Revolutionary forces, which might explain the record of his son's birth without a name. Given the absence of any other birth record, it seems highly likely that this unnamed son was the birth record for James Dunwoody Brownson, undoubtedly christened in honor of Nathan's close friend, Dr. James Dunwoody.

Many researchers have interpreted the death record of a son named Nathan on 2Sep1777 to mean that Nathan and Elizabeth had produced another son in addition to James Dunwoody Brownson. If Nathan and Elizabeth were married in about May1776 as postulated by the author, it would have been entirely possible that they could have had a son named Nathan, who died in his infancy and reported dead on 2Sep1777.

The author believes that there may be another explanation for the identity of the deceased son named Nathan. From the records of Georgia bounty grants there is a record for a Nathan Brownson abstracted as follows:

"**Brownson, Nathan.** Certificate of **John Habersham**, Major, Late Georgia Line, 12Apr1784. Entitled to bounty of 287.5 acres, and prays for same in Washington County."<sup>57</sup>

Although the rank of this Nathan Brownson was not given in the abstract, it is known that the amount of land contained in this grant of 287.5 acres was equal to that given to a Private serving in the Continental Line (250 + 15% increase). It is also known that at the outset of the Revolutionary War Captain John Habersham was a commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Georgia Continental Line, which was among the very first companies to be formed for the first

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<sup>57</sup> Georgia's Roster of the Revolution, Lucian Lamar Knight, 1920, p. 29.

Georgia Battalion authorized by the Continental Congress. This company was recruited primarily from Liberty County, and was stationed at Fort Morse near Sunbury during the first couple of years of the Revolution. Given the matching name, rank and service location, it seems very possible that Private Nathan Brownson was a son of Dr. Nathan Brownson. If Private Nathan Brownson was a son of Dr. Nathan Brownson, then he would almost certainly have been born to Nathan's 1<sup>st</sup> wife, Sophia (Inu). Assuming that Private Nathan Brownson was a son of Dr. Nathan Brownson, then it must be asked, who was the Nathan Brownson reported dead at Midway Church on 2Sep1777? Was the Nathan Brownson recorded dead on 2Sep1777 truly an infant son of Dr. Brownson and Elizabeth Jervey McLean? If so, why might they have christened their son "Nathan", if Dr. Brownson still had a living son named Nathan from an earlier marriage? Is it possible that the Nathan Brownson, who was recorded dead on 2Sep1777, was the same person as Private Nathan Brownson?

This is a mystery that the author is unable to resolve with any certainty. Given the bounty grant record, it seems an almost certainty that Private Nathan Brownson was a kinsman of Dr. Nathan Brownson. No evidence was found that Dr. Nathan Brownson had a nephew of that name. It seems most probable to the author that Private Nathan Brownson was a son of Dr. Nathan Brownson. A review of the Georgia bounty grant records and the statute which established the grant program clearly shows evidence of posthumus grants being allowed and being made. However, in virtually every instance (and there were not that many) these posthumus grants were documented with the name(s) of the grantee and their relationship to the deceased soldier. The grant record relating to Private Nathan Brownson contains no information to suggest that it was a posthumus grant. However, if the deceased soldier and the grantee had the same name, it seems possible that the recorder may have failed to recognize and document a father and son relationship.

In 1787 Dr. Nathan Brownson did apply for and was granted five separate tracts of land on Black Creek in Effingham County, two of which were for 287.5 acres each. The amount of acreage allowed in each of these two grants matched exactly with the bounty grant amount allowed a Private of the Continental Line. Bounty grant recipients were permitted to convey their grants to other parties. Is it possible that Dr. Nathan Brownson had purchased two bounty grants that had been issued to privates of the Continental Line? Yes, that seems possible. But, why would Dr. Nathan Brownson purchase bounty grants when he seemed to have had the power and means to apply for virtually any type of grant in 1787. The other three grants awarded Dr. Brownson on Black Creek in 1787 were for 160, 300 and 500 acres. Why would he not simply apply for a fourth grant of say 575 acres, rather than two separate grants of 287.5 acres each? Is it possible that he may have been entitled to file for a posthumus grant based on the death of his son, Private Nathan Brownson?

The author cannot explain this mystery, but does offer some possible scenarios that might provide an answer. However, the author does believe that the bounty grant record for Private Nathan Brownson provides ample evidence to conclude that Dr. Nathan Brownson did have at least one additional child by his 1<sup>st</sup> wife, who was heretofore unknown. If there was one additional child of Nathan Brownson's heretofore unknown, then why might there not have been more, i.e., a daughter named Mary Hannah?

## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick’s Roots

To aid the reader in visualizing and understanding the fullness of the life of Dr. Nathan Brownson, the author has compiled the following timeline of his major life events:

### Nathan Brownson Timeline

- 13May1742 - Nathan Brownson born of Timothy and Abigail at Woodbury CT.
- 1744/5 – Timothy Brownson moved family to Salisbury, CT.
- 1761 – Graduated Yale with Liberal Arts degree,
- 1762 – Nathan, Jr., son born to Dr. Nathan (estimated based on Pvt. Nathan Brownson Revolutionary War record)
- 1764 – Galen, son born to Dr. Nathan (estimated based on bond underwriting in 1788)
- 1765/6 - Mary Hannah, daughter born to Dr. Nathan (estimated based on birth of John R. Bostick on 18Jan1787).
- 1766 - Timothy Brownson died at Salisbury, CT.
- 1Sep1768 – Betsy, daughter born to Dr. Nathan and Sophia Brownson, Rehoboth, MA.
- 1770/1 - Nathan Brownson immigrated to Liberty County, Georgia and entered medical practice with Dr. James Dunwoody. (based on Dr. Dunwoody and Dr. Brownson client accounting of 1773).
- 22Apr1774 - Georgia Governor, James Wright, issued warrant of appraisement for estate of John Neilson, late of South Carolina. John Forbes, administrator. To Messieurs: **Daniel Brownson**, James Ducher, John Taylor, James Taylor, John Stacie; signed James Wright, attested Thomas Moodie. Memorandum. Oath of appraisers **Daniel Brownson**, James Ducher, and John Taylor; attested John Mitchell, Parish of St. John. Inventory of estate of John Neilson, signed **Daniel Brownson**, James Ducher.”<sup>58</sup> [Identity of Daniel Brownson unknown.]
- 2Sep1774 - Dr. Nathan Brownson married Mrs. Elizabeth Martin [nee Donnom], widow of John Martin., Esq., late of Newport in Georgia at Salketchers.
- 4Apr1775 – Elizabeth Donnom Martin Brownson, wife of Dr. Nathan Brownson died in Liberty County.
- 10May1775 - Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys seized Fort Ticonderoga (included two of Nathan Brownson’s brothers).
- 4Jul1775 - Nathan Brownson representing St. John’s Parish, Liberty County attended Georgia Provisional Congress in Savannah.
- 5Oct1775 - Nathan Brownson account with Daniel DeSaussure’s store at Beaufort, South Carolina.
- 10Apr1776 - Elizabeth McLean [nee Jervey] wrote marriage settlement with Nathan Brownson; Benjamin Andrew and Josiah Dupont as trustees. No marriage record was found, but Nathan and Elizabeth McLean are presumed to have married shortly thereafter.
- May1776 - Assumed marriage of Dr. Nathan Brownson and Elizabeth Jervey McLean.
- 4Jul1776 - 1<sup>st</sup> Continental Congress approved Declaration of Independence, officially marking the beginning of the Revolutionary War that had already been underway for more than a year.
- 9Oct1776 - Nathan Brownson elected delegate to 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress in Philadelphia for one-year term along with Button Gwinett and Lyman Hall (signers of Declaration of Independence) (all three men were medical doctors).
- 3Feb1777 – Nathan Brownson signed Agreement of Secrecy at Philadelphia.
- 7Jun1777 - Nathan Brownson elected to Continental Congress for 2<sup>nd</sup> term.
- 2Sep1777 – Nathan Brownson, son of Nathan and Elizabeth Brownson died in St. John’s Parish (believed to have been eldest son of Nathan Brownson and his first wife, Sophia. No birth record was found for this son.)
- 1778 to 1780 - Dr. Nathan Brownson served as Surgeon-in-Chief [Surgeons Mate] of Southern Department. In 1778 he was in attendance on the hospitals at Annapolis and Port Tobacco. In 1780 he was awarded £1000 by the Council of Safety for “extraordinary services”, per resolution of Congress.
- Oct1778 – An unnamed son was born to Nathan and Elizabeth [Jervey McLean] Brownson, Midway Church (believed to have been their son, James Dunwoody Brownson).
- 1May1780 - George Walton and wife, Dorothy sold to George Barnes, Merchant, various town lots in Augusta. Witnessed by H. Osborne and N. [Nathan] Brownson.

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<sup>58</sup> Hargrett Manuscript, Created By: Cuyler, Telamon Cruger Smith, 1873-1951; Title: Telamon Cuyler Collection, Series 1. Historical Manuscripts; Box: 38C; Folder: 36.



## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick's Roots

- 28Mar1781 – Nathan Brownson received a Congressional appoint to Deputy Purveyor of Southern Army Hospitals at request of General Nathaniel Green.
- 17Aug1781 – First Georgia State Legislature met at August with James Dunwoody, Nathan Brownson and Joseph Woodruff representing Liberty County, and Stephen John, Caleb Howell, Daniel Howell and Abraham Ravott representing Effingham County. The body unanimously voted to elect Nathan Brownson as Speaker of the House. Then the body proceeded to ballot for a Governor and elected Nathan Brownson to Governor for the remainder of the year. Confiscated Property Commission established with Caleb Howell and Abraham Ravott for Effingham County and James Dunwoody and Joseph Woodruff for Liberty County.
- 16Aug1781 to 2Jan1782 – Nathan Brownson was the Governor of Georgia elected by State Legislature.
- 2Jan1782 – Executive Council elected with Benjamin Andrew and James Maxwell for Liberty County and Jenkin Davis and Abraham Ravott for Effingham County. Proceeded to election of Justices with William Gibbons, **Nathan Brownson**, Charles Kent and James Cochran Assistant Justices (**James Dunwoody** J. P.) for Liberty, Glynn and Camden Counties; and Daniel Howell, Caleb Howell, Abraham Ravott, John Adam Truitlen, etal. for Effingham. House approved a measure to require commanding officers to submit payroll registers for the distribution of confiscated lands; five voting against: William Way, **James Dunwoody**, Sullivan, Truitlen and Nathan **Brownson**.
- 4Jan1782: **Nathan Brownson**, Esquire was returned a member for Glynn County, Attended, Qualified and took his seat. The House then proceeded to the choice of Justices for the different Counties, when the following persons were appointed: For Liberty, Glynn and Camden Counties: William Gibbons, **Nathan Brownson**, Charles Kent and James Cochran, Assistant Justices.
- 11Jan1782 – A letter from **Nathan Brownson** to House resigning his seat for Glynn County. [Probably could not serve as member of House and as Judge, and opted for judgeship.]
- Feb1783 – **Nathan Brownson** elected delegate from Georgia to Continental Congress as replacement for Joseph Clay, who declined to serve.
- Feb1784 - The House proceeded to the choice of Trustees for a College, when the following gentlemen were elected, Viz. John Houston, James Habersham, William Few, Joseph Clay, Abraham Baldwin, William Houston and **Nathan Brownson**, Esquires. Resolved that his Honor, the Governor be requested to grant eight land warrants for five thousand acres each, in the names of John Houston, James Habersham, William Few, Joseph Clay, Abraham Baldwin, William Houston and **Nathan Brownson**, Esquires, or their successors in Office, in trust for the College, that is to be established in this State. **James Dunwoodie** was appointed a Commissioner of Roads, 5<sup>th</sup> District, Liberty County.
- 5Jan1784 - **John Brunson Sr. [aka Brownson]** entitled to bounty grant of 250 acres as refugee soldier by certificate of Col. Caleb Howell, prays for Washington County.<sup>59</sup>
- 28Feb1784 – **Nathan Brownson** awarded bounty grant of 1150 acres on certificate of General Lachlin McIntosh in Washington County on Rooty Creek.
- 12Apr1784 - **Nathan Brownson** [Pvt.] entitled to bounty grant of 287.5 acres on certificate of Major John Habersham, for service in late Georgia Line.
- 27Jan1785 – Legislature established the Board of Trustees of the University of Georgia and appointed **Nathan Brownson, John Habersham**, etal. to board members.
- 4Apr1785 - Warrant issued to **Caleb Howell** for 287.5 acres in Effingham County abutting lands of **Abraham Ravott, Phillip Dells and Chaplain Williams** near Black Creek. N.B.: Phillip Dells and Chaplain Williams abutted tracts of Nathan Brownson issued in 1787.
- 7Jul1785 - **Nathan Brownson** and his wife purchased one-quarter (about 1600 acres) of St. Catherine's Island from Richard Call for the sum of £2250. N.B. St. Catherine's is a hammock island at the entrance to the Medway River estuary. In 1836 Samuel Hammond swore an affidavit in behalf of Elizabeth [Besty] Brownson Jones stating that he and his family along with the family of General Samuel Elbert had spent three summers on St. Catherine's Island with the family of Nathan Brownson, presumably at the invitation and as a guest of Nathan Brownson. Hammond further stated that Galen Brownson had lived for a while with his family, while Hammond held the office of Surveyor General.

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<sup>59</sup> Georgia's Roster of the Revolution, p. 34

## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick’s Roots

- 20Sep1785 – The United States, directed [payment] to **John Brunson** for 5 head of steers supplied by him for the public service, £11, 5.
- 3Oct1785 - **John Brunson** issued warrant for 150 acres on Brier Creek in Effingham County abutting lands of Benjamin Moodie and Robery Ivey.
- 1785/86 - Richard Bostick married Mary Hannah [Brownson?], probably in Effingham County.
- 26Jan1786 – Legislature appointed a commission authorized to select and procure site for new state Capital called Louisville, including **Nathan Brownson**, William Few and Hugh Lawson.
- 30Jan1786 - Legislature appointed a commission authorized to improve navigation on Brier Creek [Effingham County], including James Jones, **John Brownson** and John Davenport.
- 13Feb1786 – Legislature adopted a Tax Act levied on all ware, goods, liquors, merchandise and negroes imported into State, whereby **Nathan Brownson**, etal., were appointed commissioners of Port of Sunbury [Liberty County].
- 18Jan1787 - John R. Bostick born to Richard Bostick and Mary Hannah [Brownson?] probably in Effingham County.
- 12Mar1787 - **Nathan Brownson** issued warrant for 160 acres in Effingham County on Black Creek abutting lands of Chaplain Williams, Caleb Howell and Phillip Dells.
- 12Mar1787 - **Nathan Brownson** issued warrant for 300 acres in Effingham County on Savannah Road and Black Creek abutting lands of Pride & Chaplain Williams, Chaplain Williams, Phillip Dells and Robert Dunwoody.
- 12Mar1787 - **Nathan Brownson** issued warrant for 500 acres in Effingham County on Black Creek abutting lands of Phillip Dells and **Robert Dunwoody**.
- 11Jun1787 - **Robert Dunwoody** issued warrant for 700 acres in Effingham County on Black Creek abutting lands of John Harvey and **Nathan Brownson**.
- ~Jul1787 - David [John?] Brownson, planter, of Effingham County to his daughter Elizabeth Brownson of Bryan [Brier] Creek, Effingham County, gift of his household goods, plows, hoes, horse, 7 head of “neat cattle” and 12 hogs, on his plantation. Witnesses: Ann Howell and Caleb Howell, J.P.<sup>60</sup>
- 4Nov1787 - **Nathan Brownson** issued warrant for 287.5 acres in Effingham County on both forks of Black Creek abutting lands of **Robert Dunwoody**, w/ **Galen Brownson**, chain carrier.
- 4Dec1787 - **Nathan Brownson** issued warrant for 287.5 acres in Effingham County on both sides of north fork of Black Creek abutting his own lands, w/ **Galen Brownson**, chain carrier. *Note that William Clifton was the Deputy Surveyor on all of the foregoing plat maps.*
- 4Dec1787 - **Nathan Brownson**, Caleb Howell, and Jenkins Davis elected delegates to State of Georgia’s Constitutional Convention and new General Assembly from Effingham County.
- 31Dec1787 - **Nathan Brownson** appointed (one of 29) delegate to State Convention for ratifying U. S. Constitution.
- 1788 – John Blackwood gave bond to John Mark Verdier, George Smith, Josiah Smith, Daniel DeSaussure and Edward Darrell of South Carolina, and to **Galen Brownson [of Georgia]**. In 1792 Thomas Harrison becomes Attorney for above against John Blackwood.
- 24May1788 - **Nathan Brownson** and his wife sold their St. Catherine’s Island tract to Aedamus Burke of Charleston South Carolina. Burke did not record the deed until 3Jun1793.
- 24Jun1788 - Richard Bostick purchased two tracts of 150 acres and 100 acres, respectively, on Black Swamp in Granville County, SC from Samuel Wilkins of Savannah, the 150 acre tract originally granted to James Pace. [Note: Samuel Wilkins and James Pace were listed on the Bill of Attainment issued by Provincial Council in 1782.][Richard Bostick paid £100 sterling for these tracts. The purchase occurred exactly one month after Nathan Brownson sold his St. Catherine’s Island land. Is it possible that Richard Bostick borrowed the money from his father-in-law, which he used to purchased these two tracts?]
- Nov1788 - **Nathan Brownson**, represented Effingham County at Georgia Constitutional Convention to draft new State constitution.
- 6May1789 – **Nathan Brownson** voted to ratify Georgia’s new State Constitution as a delegate from Effingham County.
- 24Aug1789 - **Nathan Brownson** wrote letter to President George Washington requesting appointment to position of Federal Judge.

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<sup>60</sup> Annals of Georgia, Volume II, Caroline Price Wilson, Abt. 1936, p. 35.

## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick’s Roots

- 10Nov1789 - Deed of sale from Alexander McQueen [Charleston merchant and Indian-trader] of Chatham County to **Galen Brownson** for five tracts totaling 1,428 acres, granted mostly to **Nathan Brownson** in Effingham County. Witnessed by E. B. Hopkins and William Mells.<sup>61</sup>
- 1790 - Mary Hannah [Brownson?] Bostick died at Robertville, SC.
- 1790-1 - **Nathan Brownson** served as President of Senate, State of Georgia.
- 1791 - Richard Wylly, James Habersham and Leonard Cecil vs. **Nathan Brownson, Esq.**
- 31Oct 1791 - **Nathan Brownson** petitioned the House for payment by the state of Georgia for the expenses for his attendance and expenses while working as a commissioner for running the temporary boundary line. This temporary line was probably run according to the Treaty of Holston that was negotiated between the United States and the Cherokee Nation on July 2, 1791.
- 1792 - **Galen Brownson** granted 200 acres in Liberty County.
- 1792 - **Galen Brownson** granted 1000 acres on Altamaha River.
- 1792 - **Galen Brownson** granted 100 acres in Liberty County.
- 12Apr1792 - Martha Bacon and Thomas Shepard to appear as witnesses in case of the murder of Jonathan Bacon by Isaac Hudson. By Thomas Stevens, **Nathan Brownson** and James M. Stuart, J.P.’s.
- 1793 - **Robert Dunwoody** issued warrant for 730 acres in Effingham County on Black Creek (no plat map on record).
- 29Dec1795 - Henry Wood, tract of land Col. Stewart, original grant to William Graves, Sr. dec’d, joining land of Jacob Woods, Thomas Graves, **Galen Brownson**, Benjamin Andrews and Mrs. Rebecca Graves.
- 1796 - **Galen Brownson** lived with Col. Samuel Hammond near Savannah while Hammond served as Surveyor General for Georgia.<sup>62</sup>
- 11Nov1796 - “Died at his plantation in Liberty County, **Nathan Brownson**, Esq., whose various talents as a statesman, philosopher and physician have placed him in the list of distinguished characters. His expiring moments were marked with that peculiar firmness of mind, which attended him through life, and his last words delivered in whispers, were more sublimely eloquent than all the studied declamation of the pulpit: “The scene,” said he, “is now changing. The business of life is nearly over. I have, like the rest of my fellow creatures, been guilty of foibles, but I trust to the mercy of my God to pardon me, and to his justice to reward my good deeds.” By his family, by his friends, by men of sense and genius, who knew him, his death will be long lamented.”<sup>63</sup>
- 6Mar1797 - Alexander McMillan, schoolmaster, appoints Josiah Stewart his attorney, to get possession of lots in North Newport from William Wilson. Witness: James James, Benjamin Raunes, **G. [Galen] Brownson**.
- 20Mar1797 - **Galen Brownson** sale of negro slaves to **Betsy Brownson**. N.B. Galen’s sister is referred to as “Betsy” which is consistent with her given name as recorded on her birth record in Rehoboth, MA.
- Feb 12, 1798. **Elizabeth Brownson**, relic of **Dr. Nathan Brownson**, part of original grant to William Clifton. N.B. William Clifton was Deputy Surveyor for Effingham County, and he received three several grants on the Great Ogechee River at or near Sculls Creek, about two miles upstream from present day Scarboro, Effingham County. Just which of those grants may have been acquired by Elizabeth Brownson is unknown. Refer to Appendix A for a fairly detailed discussion of William Clifton and his family. Also note that Galen Brownson served as chain carrier for William Clifton on the two 287.5 acres plat maps filed by Nathan Brownson on Black Creek in 1787.
- 18Jan1804 - Augusta, Richmond County, **Elizabeth Brownson** and Charles Jones were married, Holland McTyre provided security bond. [Betsey Brownson was described as a “spinster”]
- 2Apr1804 - **Galen Brownson**, deceased – Charles Jones approved as administrator, Holland McTyre [McTyre], and John Cashin provided security bond. [Charles Jones was Galen’s brother-in-law, recently married to Betsey Brownson.]
- 9Aug1806 - **Elizabeth Jervey McLean Brownson**, relic of Nathan Brownson, died at Savannah, GA.
- 1810 Census - **Dr. James Dunwoody Brownson** was living in St. Helena Parish, Beaufort District South Carolina.
- 1820 Census - **Dr. James Dunwoody Brownson** was living in St. Helena Parish, Beaufort District South Carolina.
- 1830 Census - **Elizabeth [Brownson] Jones**, Widow, was living in 1<sup>st</sup> Ward, Columbia County, GA.
- 5Nov1851 - Rev. Henry John Stevens married **Mary Elizabeth Bostick**, daughter of **Jacob S. Bostick** and Naomi Wylly. N.B. Rev. Stevens was a son of Oliver and Eliza (Winn) Stevens and brother of

<sup>61</sup> *Annals of Georgia, Volume II*, Caroline Price Wilson, Abt. 1936, p. 37.

<sup>62</sup> See Samuel Hammond’s affidavit attesting to the identity of Elizabeth [Brownson] Jones sworn on 13Jun1836.

<sup>63</sup> *History of the Midway Congregational Church, Liberty County, Georgia*, p. 179.

## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick's Roots

Dr. Edward A. Stevens and Rev. Carlos Stevens. Born in Liberty County, GA, he was educated at Newton Seminary in Massachusetts, and preached at Roberville Baptist Church and was pastor of Sunbury and Newport Churches in Liberty County at the time of his death on 10Oct1854. He is buried in Midway Cemetery. His widow was a granddaughter of Richard Bostick.<sup>64</sup>

The foregoing timeline provides a fairly detailed account of the career and life of Dr. Nathan Brownson, which is interspersed with records of his children, close associates and a hypothetical daughter named Mary Hannah. It appears that Dr. Brownson's main focus during his adult life was directed at the practice of medicine in his early years, which transitioned fairly rapidly into public service to the fledgling State of Georgia and formation of the United States of America. Although he is known to have owned various properties during his lifetime, he does not appear to have had much interest in becoming a leading planter. His possession of 1,600 acres on St. Catherine's Island was relatively short-lived, as he sold that land within three years of its purchase. From Samuel Hammond's account, Dr. Brownson may have used the island more as a retreat, perhaps for health reasons. Keep in mind that Aedamus Burke, the purchaser of Nathan's St. Catherine's tract, did not record the deed until 3Jun1793, almost five years after the date of the deed. Perhaps the purchase of St. Catherine's by Burke was done as a favor to Nathan, and perhaps Nathan and his family might have been permitted continued usage of the property.

Even some of the tracts taken out on Black Creek were held for less than two years and may have been motivated by political imperative. In order to be elected as a representative from Effingham County, he very likely had to establish residency in that County. He may have seen competition for public office in Liberty County becoming too stiff, and decided that Effingham County might increase his chances for gaining a seat in the State House. It is also possible that he was motivated by the presence of a daughter and grandchildren living directly across the Savannah River at Black Swamp (this assumes that Mary Hannah Bostick was Nathan's daughter). These tracts were acquired in 1787, and Richard and Mary Hannah's children (perhaps Nathan's grandchildren) were born between 1787 and 1790. By 1789 Nathan appears to have already sold or mortgaged part of his Black Creek property to Alexander McQueen, as Galen Brownson reclaimed some of his father's land from McQueen on 10Nov1789.

The Black Creek property was situated on the Old Savannah-Augusta Road at about its midpoint. It would have been an ideal layover for anyone travelling between Savannah and Augusta, a trip that Nathan must have had to make several times each year. There is also the presence of Robert Dunwoody to be considered. Robert Dunwoody is reported to have moved his family from West Nantmeal, PA to the Effingham County area shortly after the end of the Revolutionary War. Robert Dunwoody was the youngest brother of Dr. James Dunwoody, Dr. Nathan Brownson's business partner and close friend. The selection of Black Creek as the location for land grants taken out by Dr. Nathan Brownson and Robert Dunwoody must have been by mutual agreement and after close consultation between these families. Dr. Brownson may have taken out the Black Creek grants with the intent that they would become his son's land, as it appears that Galen Brownson was actively involved in this area until his death in 1804 as suggested by the following court case:

"Ordered that Monday the 25th day of May, 1807, next, be assigned for the trial of the following Caveat, to wit: **James Hudson**, in behalf of Randal Ramsey, appellant, vs. **John Dunwoody**, in behalf of **Mary**

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<sup>64</sup> Ibid., pp. 113-4.



## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick’s Roots

Dunwoody, respondent, Appeal – 250 acres of land in Screven County, adjoining lands of Dunwoody, Brownson and Shepherd.<sup>65</sup>

The identity of these Dunwoodys is not known with certainty, but since the land in question was situated in Screven County, it seems likely that John and Mary Dunwoody were kinsmen of Robert Dunwoody, who had taken out grants on Black Creek abutting lands of Nathan Brownson [later in possession of Galen Brownson]. The James Hudson named in this suit very possibly was the son of Robert Hudson, original owner and operator of Hudson’s Ferry, which was situated within about four miles of the Dunwoody and Brownson tracts on Black Creek.

Figure 7 – 10 contains a composite map created by the author depicting Nathan Brownson’s Black Creek tracts placed in proximity to Robert Dunwoody’s 1787 plat of 700 acres, and in relationship to Caleb Howell’s plat of 287.5 acres. The boundaries of these tracts were developed using the metes and bounds shown on the plat maps. The tracts were fitted together based on the abutting land owners shown on the plat maps. To the extent that geographic features were shown on plat maps, those features were transferred onto each reconstructed tract. In this instance those geographic features consisted of segments of Black Creek and segments of the Old River Road (Savannah to Augusta Road). Finally, using the segments of Black Creek, the composite reconstruction of these tracts was overlaid onto a current map image taken from Google Maps. While the current geographic features do not precisely align with the stream segments shown on the plat maps, they make a fairly close approximation. Also, the alignment and location of the segments of the Old River Road fairly closely matches with the present alignment and location of Newington Highway (State Route 24). From this exercise, the author has a fairly high level of confidence in the siting and spatial proximity of these tracts to one another as well as to their geographic placement on the current map.

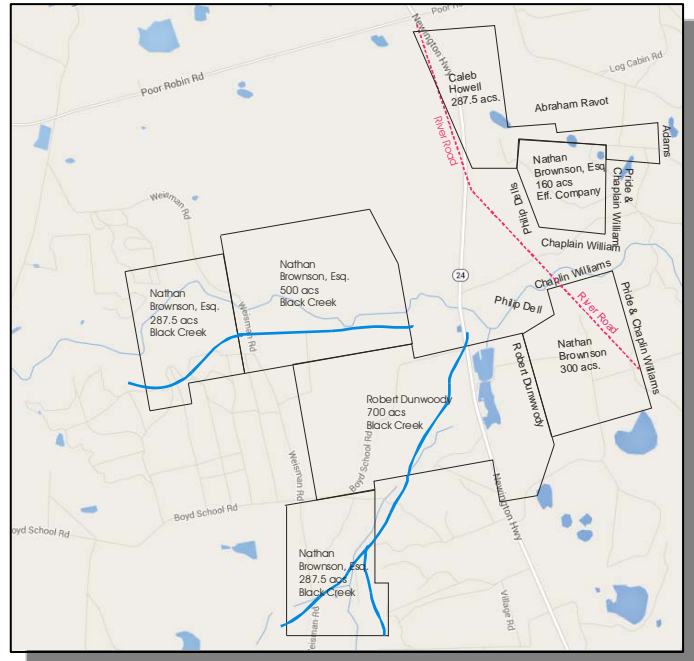


Figure 7-10  
Black Creek Plat Map Reconstruction

Having established the approximate location of Nathan Brownson’s and Robert Dunwoody’s Effingham County properties, it is apparent that these lands were situated approximately four miles northwest of Hudson’s Ferry, which was situated on the Savannah River near Barton’s Branch. Moreover, Black Creek flows into the Savannah River just upstream of the old Hudson

<sup>65</sup> Paper: Louisville Gazette (Louisville, GA), Friday, May 22, 1807, Issue: 372, Page: 2.



Ferry Site and its confluence is almost directly opposite Crab Orchard Road, near the southeastern boundary of present day Bostick Hunting Club.

Placing the Black Creek property into some sort of context with the lands owned by Samuel Bostick and Richard Bostick around the 1780's, those Bostick properties are known to have been situated on Boggy Gut and Black Swamp in an area between 5 and 10 miles distance to the southeast from Nathan Brownson's Black Creek properties. Refer to Figure 7- 11 for an illustration of the proximity of this Black Creek property to key geographic features across the river in Beaufort District. Keeping in mind that Hudson's Ferry and Sisters Ferry were two of the primary river crossings between Effingham/Screven Counties and Beaufort District, it is clear that Nathan Brownson would have had easy access to Bostick Plantations in Beaufort District, and vice versa via Hudson's Ferry.

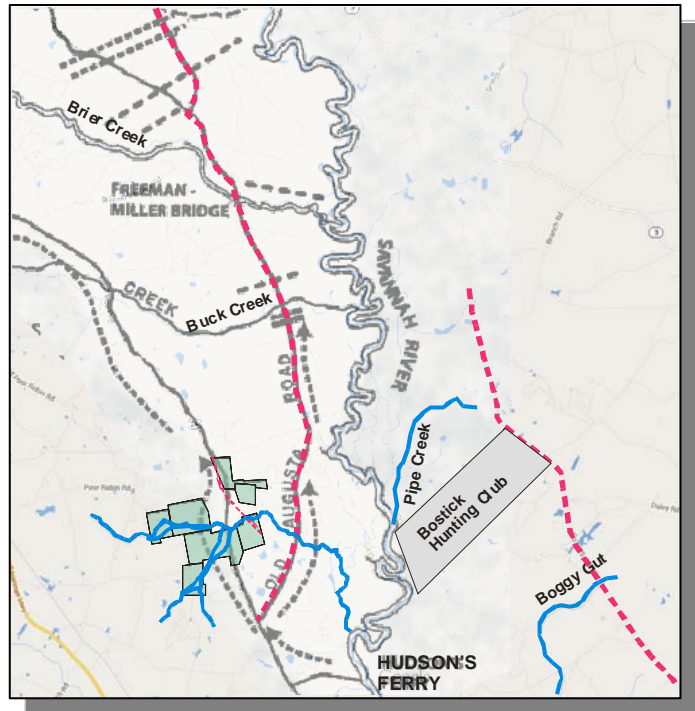


Figure 7-11  
Hudson's Ferry Vicinity Map

### Hudson's Ferry

Since Hudson's Ferry appears to provide the geographic link that could bridge the gap between Nathan Brownson's Effingham County property and Samuel and Richard Bostick's Beaufort District properties, it may be worthwhile spending a little time providing some background on this Hudson family.

First, it should be recognized that the surnames of Hudson and Hutson were often used interchangeably. Records of the same individual can be found with both spellings. The progenitor of the Hudsons found in Beaufort District and Effingham County areas may have been Samuel Hudson Sr., who first appeared on records in the Goose Creek area of Berkeley County, SC in the 1740's where he acquired two tracts totaling 750 acres on Webbs Creek. On 10Oct1764 Robert Hudson filed a plat map for 700 acres in Granville County butting on the Savannah River, generally as shown by the red tract in Figure 7-12. This figure is a composite of 1943 USGS Quadrangle Maps for the Shirley and Pineland quadrangles. Various geographic features have been enhanced with overlaid lines and text to accentuate key roads, streams, towns and river landings. Also overlaid onto this map are the Black Creek properties previously discussed, as well as the location of the Bostick Plantation on King's Branch as it appeared on

Robert Mill's map of Beaufort District, circa 1825. Additionally, the outlines of several 1730's era baronies and tract filings in the vicinity of Hudson's Ferry also have been overlaid.

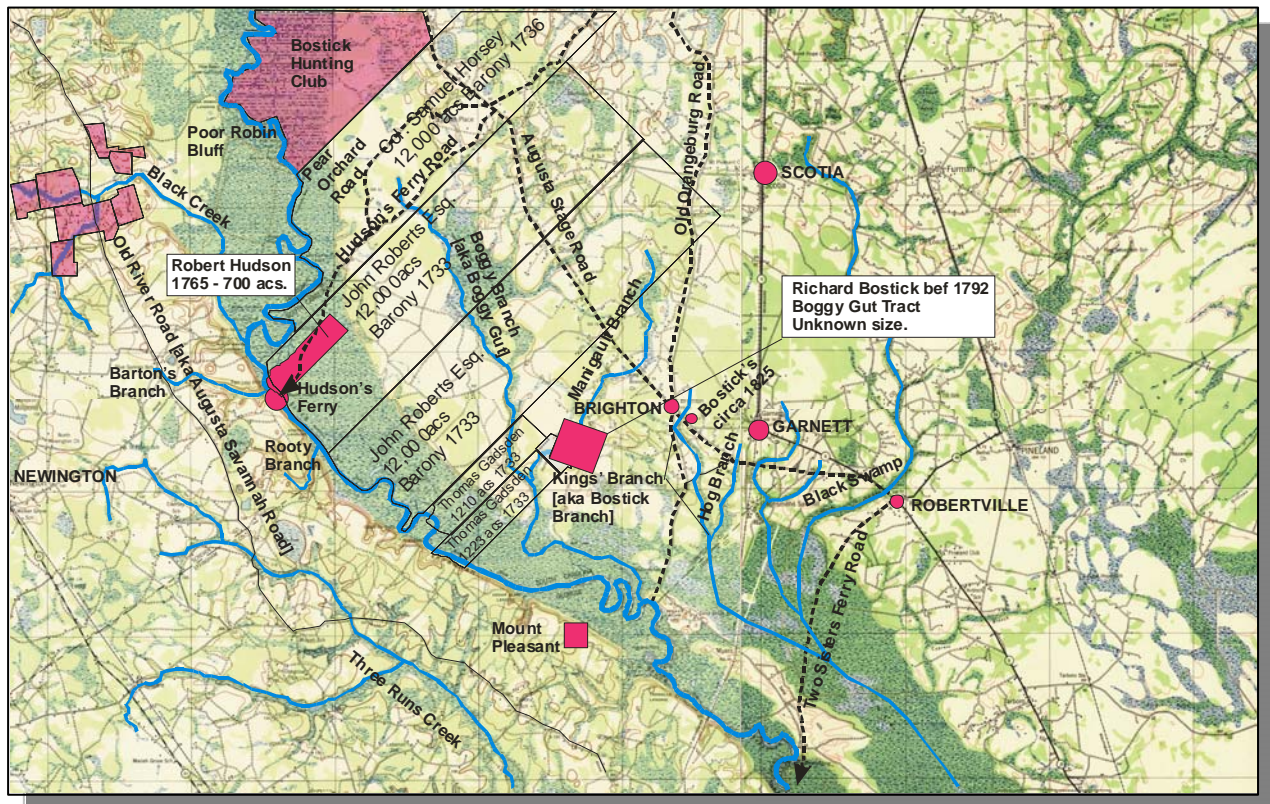


Figure 7-12  
Black Creek and Black Swamp Vicinity Map

From Figure 7-12 it is shown that Robert Hudson's 1764 plat filing was located on the north side of the Savannah River and contained the site of the future Hudson's Ferry. Various members of the Hudson family acquired tracts on the Effingham County side of the River in the vicinity of the Hudson Ferry. It seems very likely that one of those tracts was situated at Barton's Bluff, directly across the River from Robert Hudson's 1764 grant and contained the ferry landing for the Georgia side of the ferry route. Some of the Hudson grants and records in Effingham County are listed in chronological order as follows:

1. 9Mar1752 – "**Hudson, Samuel Sr.**, Berkley County and Parish of Goose Creek on Santee River, to his son, **Samuel Hudson Jr.**, of the same, deed of gift for three hundred acres land on the Santee River, all resident buildings, stables, gardens, orchards, waters, easements, etc.; seven slaves named Peter, Mat, Hannah, Thoney, Bess, March, Prince; all his black cattle and horses, mares, and gildens [sic]. (2 pages)"<sup>66</sup>  
*Samuel Hudson Sr. is believed to have been the person referenced hereinabove as having taken out grants in Goose Creek, Berkeley County, SC. Virtually nothing has been discovered by the author about the background of Samuel Hudson Sr. It seems probable that Samuel Hudson Sr. may have been the same person appearing in the following grant application in Georgia in 1753.*

<sup>66</sup> SCDH Archives.



## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick's Roots

2. "8Nov1753 – Read a petition of **Samuel Hudson**, setting forth, that he was desirous of improving lands within the Colony [Georgia]; therefore he requested 500 acres of land, namely 400 acres situated about eight miles above Mount Pleasant on Savannah River, bounded on all sides by vacant lands, and 100 acres at a place known by the name of Barton's Branch about a mile to the eastward of the aforesaid 400 acres... Board ordered 400 acres..."<sup>67</sup>  
*This Samuel Hudson may have been the Samuel Hudson Sr. mentioned in the foregoing gift deed. This likelihood is strengthened by the fact that Samuel Hudson Sr. appears to be transferring his Goose Creek property to his son, Samuel Jr., as if preparing either for his death or his departure to another location. Given the timing and the fact that he appears to have several headrights in his household, it seems likely that Samuel Hudson Sr. was relocating from Goose Creek, SC to St. Matthew's Parish, GA. This was the earliest record found for a Hudson in Georgia colonial records. Although not stated in the petition, it can be inferred from the size of these grants that Samuel Hudson was married and had a family of several children and/or slaves. Based on the location of these tracts at about eight miles above Mount Pleasant, Barton's Branch is believed to be the same stream shown on current maps as Ferry Branch, and the same stream that joins the Savannah River immediately upstream from the old Hudson's Ferry site. Another geographic indicator is the reference to "Barton's Bluff" on DeBrahm's Map circa 1756 just downstream of Hudson's Ferry. It seems very possible that the 100 acre tract described in this grant contained the westerly landing of the Hudson's Ferry crossing. The 400 acre tract would have been about one mile to the west of the 100 acre tract.*
3. "8Nov1753 – Read a petition of **John Hudson** setting forth, that he wanted to improve a piece of land and to erect a Mill thereon, materials for which he had prepared; therefore he prayed for 100 acres situated at a place known by the name of Barton's Branch near Mount Pleasant on Savannah River... The Board ordered 100 acres..."<sup>68</sup>  
*Given the fact that this petition was filed on the same date as the above petition by Samuel Hudson, and for virtually the same location on Barton's Branch, it is a virtual certainty that John Hudson and Samuel Hudson were kinsmen, possibly brothers or father and son. Given that John Brady in the following record was a son-in-law of Samuel Hudson, it seems possible that John Hudson may have been a son of Samuel Hudson.*
4. "8Nov1753 – Read a petition of **John Brady** (son-in-law to Samuel Hudson) setting forth, that he was desirous of becoming a planter in the Colony; therefore he prayed for 200 acres situated about two miles above lands ordered to be laid out for Samuel Hudson... The Board ordered 100 acres..."<sup>69</sup>  
*John Brady was married to a daughter of Samuel Hudson, whose name is not known. Brady received this grant plus one additional abutting grant of 100 acres in 1758/9. By 1762 he disappeared from the records, perhaps he died or moved outside the Georgia Province.*
5. "3Oct1758 – Read a petition of **Robert Hudson** setting forth that he was settled at a place called Barton's Branch and had 100 acre granted him there, and was desirous to obtain an additional tract having a **wife, a child and a Negro**; therefore praying for 150 acres near the land above mentioned adjoining the land laid out for Robert Sotherland at a place called Rooty Branch... Granted with usual stipulations..."<sup>70</sup>  
*This was the first record found for Robert Hudson, believed to have been a son of Samuel Hudson. No record was found for the earlier grant of 100 acres referenced in this petition. It seems possible, given its described proximity to Barton's Branch, that it may have been the same 100 acres filed by Samuel Hudson in 1753. The newly requested grant of 150 acres is described as being on Rooty Branch, which was the next small tributary just downstream of Barton's Branch [see Figure 7-12]. The combined area of 250 acres would have been based on headrights of 100 acres to Robert, plus 50 acres each for his wife, child and Negro.*
6. "3Oct1758 – Read a petition of **Charles Hudson** setting forth that he had been upwards of five years in the province and was possessed of no lands therein and was desirous to obtain a grant of land for cultivation; therefore praying for 100 acres at Barton's Branch adjoining lands granted his father, Samuel Hudson... Granted with the usual stipulations..."<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> The Colonial Records of Georgia, Volume VI, Chandler, 1901, p. 415.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid., p. 415.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> The Colonial Records of Georgia, Volume VII, Chandler, 1901, p. 815.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid., p. 818.

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*Charles Hudson appears to have been yet another son of Samuel Hudson. His having been in the province for five years coincides with his father's apparent arrival in 1753. This grant would have been adjacent to Samuel, John and Robert Hudson and John Brady near Barton's Branch, thus establishing an enclave of Hudson kinsmen at Barton's and Rooty Branch on the Savannah River.*

7. 1Jan1760 – Read a petition of **Christopher Hudson** setting forth that he had been seven years in the province, had had no land therein and was desirous to obtain a grant of land for cultivation having on Negro; therefore praying for 150 acres on the north side of Great Ogechee within one mile of land there granted James Muter... Granted with the usual stipulations.<sup>72</sup>

*Although not stated, it seems probable that Christopher Hudson was yet another son of Samuel Hudson Sr. The likelihood of this kinship is predicated on his statement that he had been resident in the province for seven years, coinciding with Samuel's arrival in 1753. Christopher Hudson probably was younger than the other children thus far mentioned. In fact, it is logical to establish a birth order of Samuel Hudson's children based on the chronological sequence they appear in the records, i.e., (1) Samuel Jr., (2) John, (3) Robert, (4) Charles and (5) Christopher. Since Robert and Charles appear for the first time on the same date, their sequence of birth cannot be stipulated with any degree of certainty. Also, there appears to have been a daughter born sometime between Samuel Jr. and Robert and Charles, who married John Brady.*

8. 1Feb1763 – Read a petition of **Samuel Hudson** setting forth that he was lately come into the province from South Carolina with his family consisting of **wife, five children and seven negroes** in order to settle and obtain land for cultivation; therefore praying for 100 acres to settle on near Barton's Branch above Mount Pleasant joining hithermost line of land granted **John Brady** and abutting on Savannah River. Granted...<sup>73</sup>

*This very likely was the family of Samuel Hudson Jr., who had received the gift deed from his father of land and personal property in 1752 at Goose Creek, SC. It would appear that Samuel Jr. may have been enticed into relocating to Georgia to be near his parents and siblings. It seems peculiar that he would have requested only 100 acres, given that he had a wife, five children and seven Negroes. He very likely could have qualified for 700 acres. The requested 100 acres would have been located on Barton's Branch adjacent to his brother-in-law, John Brady.*

9. 2Aug1763 – Read a petition of **Christopher Hudson** setting forth that he had had ordered him 100 acres of land on the Great Ogechee which was surveyed for him and he settled thereon, but could not continue there on account of the trouble he met with from the Indians; therefore had not taken out a grant for the same but resigned all rights thereto and was desirous to obtain other land for cultivation having eight Negroes; therefore praying for 400 acres near a place called Poor Robin on Savannah River, back from the said River to adjoin land there granted Townsend Robinson... Granted with the usual stipulations.<sup>74</sup>

*Christopher Hudson apparently was a risk taker. His original 100 acre grant had been located on the upper Ogechee in disputed territory, land which the Lower Creeks claimed as their hereditary hunting grounds. Settlers mainly from North Carolina and Virginia began to move into the upper Ogechee River territory in the 1750's. Trouble with the Indians began almost immediately, with each faction pushing back against the other. The Indians helped themselves to the settler's livestock and storehouses. These hostilities peaked around 1756 when a group of eight settlers, pursuing a party of renegade horse thieves, shot and killed two Indians. That event came very close to erupting into full-scale war with the Lower Creeks. It wasn't until 1763 that the upper Ogechee region was ceded to the colonists. Christopher Hudson made no mention of having a wife or children, but his requested 400 acre tract was located at Poor Robin on the Savannah about five miles upstream from Barton's Branch and very near the Brownson/Dunwoody properties on Black Creek.*

10. 6Dec1763 – South Carolina – “Pursuant to a precept from the Honorable Egerton Leigh, Esq., Surveyor General of the province bearing date of 6<sup>th</sup> of Dec. 1763, I have admeasured and laid out unto **Robert Hudson** 700 acres of land in Granville County, on Savannah River, opposite to Barton's Bluff; bound on all sides by vacant land containing as is above described...Certified this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1764 by me, Isaac Perry, Deputy Surveyor.”<sup>75</sup>

*This grant has been previously discussed, but is reiterated in chronological context with other Hudson transactions. This grant is believed to have been situated as illustrated in Figure 7-12 and to have been the South Carolina landing site of Hudson's Ferry. This Robert Hudson is believed to have been a son of*

<sup>72</sup> The Colonial Records of Georgia, Volume VIII, Chandler, 1901, p. 223.

<sup>73</sup> The Colonial Records of Georgia, Volume IX, Chandler, 1901, p. 22.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 81.

<sup>75</sup> SCDH.

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*Samuel Hudson, Sr., and the same person who filed for the 150 acre grant at Rooty Branch on 3Oct1758. It seems probable that Robert Hudson commenced operation of a ferry across the Savannah River at this location just downstream of Barton’s Branch shortly after having acquired this grant. It is believed that that ferry became known as Hudson’s Ferry and continued in operation at that location until about 1840. Following the death of Robert Hudson Sr., the author believes that his son, James Hudson, took over operation of Hudson’s Ferry. Hudson’s Ferry was deemed a vital and strategically located facility during the Revolutionary War for the transport of goods and personnel between St. Matthew’s Parish, GA and St. Peter’s Parish, SC. It played a significant role under the control of British forces leading up to and following the critical battle at Brier’s Creek.*

11. 7Jun1764 – “To be sold by the subscriber at Mount Pleasant: a new boat, eight feet wide, and 40 feet long, with a small cabin, and everything necessary for immediate use. **Robert Hudson.**”<sup>76</sup>  
*This newspaper advertisement suggests that Robert Hudson may have been engaged in the business of boat building on his land near Barton’s Bluff or Rooty Branch. The description of the craft in this article fits that of a Bateaux, which was in common use in the coastal waterways and streams of North America during colonial times similar to those illustrated in Figure 7-13. It would have been used on the Savannah River during this time period for the transport of trading goods and deer skins between Augusta and Savannah.*

Definition: “Bateaux were flat-bottomed and double-ended. They were built with heavy stems at bow and stern and a series of frames amidships, likely from natural oak crooks when available, and planked with sawn boards, likely pine although builders would have used whatever material was available. These boats would have varied from place to place, from builder to builder and also evolved over time, however in general, they were 24 feet (7.3 m) to 50 feet (15 m) long and 5 feet (1.5 m) to 8 feet (2.4 m) wide. The bottoms were planked and flat, without a keel, but possibly with a larger “keel-plank” in the center and sometimes reinforced with cross cleats. The sides were planked, tapering to shape at either end.”<sup>77</sup>

12. 4Sep1764 – “Read a petition of **Samuel Hudson** setting forth that in Feb1763 he removed into this province from South Carolina with his family consisting of a **wife, five children and seven Negroes** of which he then made oath and obtained 100 acres of land whereon to settle and was desirous to obtain an additional tract; therefore praying for 600 acres of land back of Poor Robin in St. Matthew’s Parish adjoining land of John Waters, Townsend Robinson and **Christopher Hudson.**... Granted.”<sup>78</sup>

*This petitioner is believed to have been Samuel Hudson Jr., son of Samuel Hudson Sr., and brother of Christopher, John, Charles and Robert Hudson. This tract of 600 acres would have maximized Samuel Jr.’s headright entitlements, and was situated at Poor Robin nearby the 400 acres previously granted to Christopher Hudson. As seen on Figure 7-12, Poor Robin was situated between Black Creek and the Savannah River, within a couple of miles of Brownson and Dunwoody lands.*



Figure 7-13  
Replicas of 25-foot Long Bateauxs

13. 1Jan1765 – Read a petition of **Robert Hudson** setting forth that he had 250 acres of land granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract, having a **wife, four children and six Negroes**; therefore praying

<sup>76</sup> *Georgia Gazette*, (Savannah), Issue 62, Page 5, 7Jun1764.

<sup>77</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bateau>, accessed 28Feb2015.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 209.



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for 150 acres lying between the land before granted him and land of John Bowles above Mount Pleasant... Granted with the usual stipulations.”<sup>79</sup>

*It would appear that Robert Hudson's family has grown by three children and five slaves since his grant filing on 3Oct1758. This 150 acre grant was situated near his earlier 150 acre grant on Rooty Branch.*

14. 7May1765 – South Carolina – Pursuant to a precept from John Troup, Esq., Deputy Surveyor General of this province, bearing date the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 1765, I have admeasured and laid out unto **Richard Scruggs** 750 acres of land in Granville County, on Savannah River, below Matthew's Bluff, bounded to the SW by Savannah River, to the SE by land laid out to **Robert Bebil [Beville?]**, to the NE by vacant land, and NW partly on vacant land and on partly by land granted to George Hickenbottom... Certified this 11<sup>th</sup> day of Oct, 1765 by me, Isaac Perry, Deputy Surveyor. Order Co[nsigned?] 5Jan1768 for **Christopher Hudson**.<sup>80</sup>
- This Richard Scruggs is believed to have been born in St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County, Virginia in about 1720, son of Richard Scruggs and Martha Drury. Richard Scruggs first appeared in Georgia colonial records in Dec1757 when he filed a petition for 300 acres on Brier Creek, about 10 miles upstream from Hudson's Ferry. Richard reported his family having been a wife, five children and eight Negroes. Richard is believed to have married a woman named Amy [Inu] at New Kent, VA. In Nov1764 Richard Scruggs was appointed a Justice of the Peace from St. Matthew's Parish. Richard's son, Richard Scruggs Jr. married Ann Hudson, almost certainly a granddaughter of Samuel Hudson Sr., Ann's parents are not known with certainty, but her father very likely was either Samuel Hudson Jr. or Robert Hudson. Christopher Hudson appears to have been appointed the administrator of the estate of Samuel Hudson Sr., wherein he was recorded in that capacity as follows:*

“1769 – (p. 123) Three receipts: (1) **Robert Hudson** to **Christopher Hudson**, administrator of **Samuel Hudson [Sr.]** estate, dated 27Sep1769, for said Robert's share of the estate of said father, Samuel Hudson, deceased; (2) from William Thompson [Colonel from Pipe Creek, SC?] to Robert Hudson dated 27Mar1769, for £1650 owing him by the said Robert's father, Samuel Hudson; (3) **Samuel Hudson, Charles Hudson, and John Brady** to **Christopher Hudson**, administrator, as aforesaid, dated 29Feb1769, for 5 shillings “in full for all demands”.<sup>81</sup>

*From the foregoing receipts pertaining to the estate administration of Samuel Hudson Sr. it can be inferred that he had three sons named Robert, Charles and Samuel Jr. It is already established from earlier records that John Brady was Samuel Hudson Sr.'s son-in-law. Christopher Hudson's kinship to Samuel Hudson Sr. is unclear from these records, but it seems highly probable that he was another son. Note that this tract was later consigned to Christopher Hudson on 5Jan1768. This tract was situated on the Savannah River near Matthew's Bluff, which was about three miles upstream from the mouth of Brier's Creek, the site of Richard Scruggs' grant in Dec1757. The abutting landowner, Robert Bebil almost certainly was Robert Beville, another Virginia transplant. The Beville family originated from the Tidewater region of the James River basin. Essex Beville was the earliest known immigrant of that name first appearing in a grant on the lower Appomattox River in the 1670's. This Beville family originates from a proud and esteemed line in Cornwall dating to the Conquest. Robert Beville, grandson of Essex Beville, relocated from Bristol Parish, Virginia to Georgia in the 1750's, where he received grants along Brier's Creek in St. Matthew's Parish. Based on this grant record to Richard Scruggs, it would appear that Robert Beville had also received grants across the River in Granville County, SC. It seems possible that these Scruggs and Beville families may have migrated from Virginia to Georgia around the same time, perhaps in the same party. (More on this Beville family later).*

15. 7May1765 – “Read a petition of **Robert Hudson** setting forth that in January last he had ordered him 150 acres of land lying between a tract of 250 acres before granted and land of John Bowles above Mount Pleasant and was desirous to obtain an additional tract, having a **wife, four children and six Negroes** (as before proved) and only 400 acres of land; therefore praying for 50 acres adjoining the 150 acres last ordered him and the land whereon he lived and that the 200 acres might be certified as one tract... Granted with the usual stipulations.”<sup>82</sup>

*Robert Hudson, son of Samuel Hudson Sr., requesting an additional 50 acres abutting his last previous grant of 150 acres at Rooty Branch. This grant was approved giving Robert Hudson a total of 450 acres near Rooty Branch and Barton's Branch.*

<sup>79</sup> Ibid., p. 261.

<sup>80</sup> SCDAH.

<sup>81</sup> Annals of Georgia, Vol. II, Part 2, Rev. Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr., 2004, p. 9.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid., p. 346.

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16. 4Jul1765 – “To be sold on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July next, at the Watch-house in Savannah, for ready money: a large new trading boat, the property of **Samuel Hudson**.”<sup>83</sup>  
*This public sale item, when taken in context with the subsequent Public Auction item for sale of 500 acres belonging to Samuel Hudson, clearly suggests the property of Samuel Hudson Sr. Given the type of boat referenced in this advertisement, it would seem that Samuel Hudson Sr. was also engaged in the building of bateaux similar to his son Robert, or that he was engaged in some sort of trading business that required the use of bateaux. It seems most likely, since this boat was described as a “new trading boat”, that the father and son were both engaged in boat-building at their plantations near Barton’s Branch.*
17. 22Jul1765 – Public Auction – “To be sold, on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July next, at the Watch-house in Savannah, for ready money: A tract of 400 of land, in the District of Halifax, bounded east by Savannah River, and other sides vacant, passed the Surveyor General’s office 17Oct1755; also 100 acres, bounded south by the above tract, east by Savannah River, and north by **John Brady** – both tracts the property of **Samuel Hudson**, and taken in execution by Matthew Roche, Provost Marshal.”<sup>84</sup>  
*This auction of lands may have been from the estate of Samuel Hudson Sr., who may have died within the recent past, or Samuel Hudson Sr. had become indebted and had his property seized by the Court.*
18. 2Jun1767 – “Read a petition of **Robert Hudson** setting forth that he had ordered him 200 acres of land in St. Matthew’s Parish which had been surveyed and returned into the Surveyor General’s office but the time was elapsed in which a grant ought to have been taken out; therefore praying that notwithstanding the lapse of time he might be permitted to take out his Majesty’s grant for the said land and that the Surveyor General might be ordered to prepare and certify a plan thereof... Granted with usual stipulations.”<sup>85</sup>  
*Ditto Item 15, above.*
19. 6Oct1767 – “Read a petition of **Robert Hudson** setting forth that he had had 450 acres of land granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract, having a **wife, five children and 12 slaves**; therefore praying for 400 acres on Brier Creek adjoining land of Richard Begley to be run in a long square down the Creek to include 100 acres before ordered James Stewart, but since lapsed in the Surveyor General’s office... Granted with usual stipulations.”<sup>86</sup>  
*Since not otherwise identified, this is presumed to have been Robert Hudson, Sr. This tract may have been in the same general vicinity of earlier tracts filed by Richard Scruggs on Walnut Branch of Brier Creek.*
20. 6Oct1767 – “Read a petition of **Charles Hudson** setting forth that he had had granted him 100 acres of land and was desirous to obtain an additional tract having a **wife, three children and two Negroes**; therefore praying for 100 acres upon Barton’s Branch to adjoin land of **Robert Hudson** and **Richard Scruggs**... Granted with the usual stipulations.”<sup>87</sup>  
*Charles Hudson was a son of Samuel Hudson Sr., and brother of Robert Hudson. It would appear from this petition description that Robert Hudson’s lands were adjacent to Richard Scruggs Sr. The adjacent land owned by Robert Hudson may have been the tracts previously granted Robert Hudson at Barton’s Branch.*
21. 1Dec1767 – Read a petition of **Robert Hudson, Christopher Hudson** and James Nolebay [Nobley?] setting forth that the petitioners were intending to erect a Saw Mill and were desirous to obtain land for a supply of timber; therefore praying for on purchase and as tenants in common 600 acres upon the Three Runs for the use of the said Mill... Granted with the usual stipulations.”<sup>88</sup>  
*It is believed that Robert Hudson and Christopher Hudson were brothers, and sons of Samuel Hudson Sr. It appears that they were in business together and planning on erecting a saw mill on Three Runs, probably nearby to Barton’s Branch (refer to Figure 7-12 for the location of Three Runs). The operation of a saw mill would be compatible with a boat-building business. Lumber processed at the saw mill could be used to build boats, or transported down river by boat to be sold or shipped at Savannah. Their brother, John Hudson, had previously announced his intent to install some sort of mill on Barton’s Branch in his grant petition dated 8Nov1753 (Item 3, above).*

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<sup>83</sup> Georgia Gazette, (Savannah), Issue 118, Page 3, 4Jul1765

<sup>84</sup> Georgia Gazette, (Savannah), Issue 116, Page 3, 20Jun1765.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 213.

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 313.

<sup>87</sup> The Colonial Records of Georgia, Volume X, Chandler, 1901, p. 314.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 359.

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22. 15Dec1767 – “**Samuel Hudson** informs me of a Bay horse...; and a Chesnut Sorel mare... Whoever owns them must prove their property before **Richard Scruggs, J. P.** at Barton's Branch in St. Matthew's Parish.”<sup>89</sup>  
*This may have been Samuel Hudson Jr., as it seems probable that Samuel Hudson Sr. was already deceased in 1767. Richard Scruggs' son, Richard Scruggs Jr., may have married Ann Hudson, daughter of Samuel Hudson Jr.*
23. 7Jun1768 – “Read a petition of **Samuel Hudson** setting forth that he had had 700 acres of land granted him and was possessed of two Negroes for whom he had obtained no land; therefore praying for 100 acres about one mile above Barton's Branch in St. Matthew's Parish to adjoin land of the petitioner's and land of **Charles Hudson** and **Richard Scruggs**... Granted with usual stipulations.”<sup>90</sup>  
*This almost certainly was Samuel Hudson Jr. By virtue of this tract abutting Charles Hudson and Richard Scruggs, it suggests that the earlier grants to Richard Scruggs, Charles Hudson and Robert Hudson on Brier Creek may actually have been closer to Poor Robin.*
24. 6Sep1768 – “Read a petition of **Robert Hudson**, **Christopher Hudson** and James Noleboy [Mobley?] setting forth that they had ordered them 600 acres of land in St. Matthew's Parish which had been surveyed and a plan thereof returned into the Surveyor General's office, but the time was elapsed in which a grant ought to have passed; therefore praying that notwithstanding the lapse of time they might be permitted to take out his Majesty's grant for the said land and that the Surveyor General might be ordered to prepare and certify a plan thereof... Granted with the usual stipulations.”<sup>91</sup>  
*Ditto Item 21, above.*
25. “1769 – (p. 123) Three receipts: (1) **Robert Hudson** to **Christopher Hudson**, administrator of **Samuel Hudson** [Sr.] estate, dated 27Sep1769, for said Robert's share of the estate of said father, Samuel Hudson, deceased; (2) from William Thompson to Robert Hudson dated 27Mar1769, for £1650 owing him by the said Robert's father, Samuel Hudson; (3) Samuel Hudson, Charles Hudson, and John Brady to Christopher Hudson, administrator, as aforesaid, dated 29Feb1769, for 5 shillings “in full for all demands.”<sup>92</sup>  
*Clearly, Samuel Hudson Sr. was deceased by sometime in 1769 as evidence by this estate administration record, the earliest of which was dated 29Feb1769. It would appear that Christopher Hudson was appointed administrator of his father's estate, and that his brothers: Robert, Samuel Jr. and Charles were heirs to that estate, as well as John Brady, son-in-law to Samuel Sr. John Hudson was not mentioned in these documents, nor was he among the Hudson's receiving bounty grants, suggesting that he may have predeceased his father.*
26. 1May1770 – “Read a petition of **Samuel Hudson** setting forth that he had ordered him 100 acres of land in St. Matthew's Parish which had been surveyed and a plan thereof returned into the Surveyor General's office but the time was elapsed in which a grant for the same should have passed; therefore praying that notwithstanding the lapse of time he might be permitted to take out his Majesty's grant for the said land and that the Surveyor General might be ordered to prepare and certify a plan thereof for that purpose... Granted with usual stipulations.”<sup>93</sup>  
*Ditto Item 23, above.*
27. 6Dec1784 – **Robert Hudson Jr.** granted 200 acres in Effingham County near Savannah River, bounded westward by **Richard Scruggs Sr.**, northeast by **Robert Hudson Sr.**, east by **Abraham Motte**, southeast by **Benjamin Goldwire**, and all other sides vacant.<sup>94</sup>  
*This is believed to have been the son of Robert Hudson Sr. The requested grant was near Barton's Branch given its proximity to the lands of Robert Hudson Sr. and Richard Scruggs. Note that this was the first grant or transaction found for this Hudson family following the Revolutionary War. However, there were bounty grants awarded to James Hudson, Nathaniel Hudson, Samuel Hudson and Robert Hudson in 1784 based on certificates from Col. Jenkins Davis and/or Col. Caleb Howell, both of whom commanded militia troops from Effingham County area. Those grants were all in the amounts of 287.5 acres, indicating that these Hudson men held the rank of Private, possibly in the Continental Line in addition to the militia. The abutting landowners: Benjamin Goldwire and Abraham Motte were connected to the Rooty Branch Baptist Church, discussed later in this chapter.*

<sup>89</sup> Georgia Gazette, (Savannah), Issue 223, Page 2, 30Dec1767.

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 499.

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 600.

<sup>92</sup> Annals of Georgia, Vol. II, Part 2, Rev. Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr., 2004, p. 9.

<sup>93</sup> The Colonial Records of Georgia, Volume XI, Chandler, 1901, p. 45.

<sup>94</sup> Georgia Department of Archives and History. Online Virtual Vault.

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28. 5Jul1784 – **Robert Hudson Sr.** granted 250 acres in Effingham County, bounded east by own land, west by **Richard Scruggs Sr.**, north by **William Colson**, all other sides vacant.  
*This was Robert Hudson Sr., son of Samuel Hudson Sr. This tract was situated near Barton's Branch. William Colson was married to Martha Beville, daughter of Paul Beville Sr. and Sarah Scruggs. Sarah Scruggs was a daughter of Richard Scruggs Sr. and Ann [Inu, possibly Sisson]. The Beville, Colson and Scruggs families originated from the lower James River basin in tidewater Virginia. It is possible that the Hudson family also originated from that same general area.*
29. 6Dec1784 – **Robert Hudson Sr.** granted 200 acres in Effingham County, near Rooty Branch, bounded to north by **Robert Hudson Jr.**, east by **Benjamin Goldwire**, all other sides vacant.  
*Robert Hudson Sr. appears to be adding to his existing grants near Rooty Branch and adjacent to his son, Robert Hudson Jr.*
30. 7Mar1785 – **James Hudson** granted 200 acres in Effingham County, bounded southeast on **Robert Hudson** and **Richard Scruggs**, all other sides vacant.  
*This was the earliest record found for James Hudson, son of Robert Hudson Sr., except for his having served as a militia Private under the command of Captain Jenkins Davis from Effingham County during the late War. This tract appears to have been in the general vicinity of Barton's Branch. This James Hudson is believed by the author to have been the same person named in the 1807 lawsuit involving a tract of land that abutted the lands of Dunwoody and Brownson.*
31. 7Jan1789 – "**Nathaniel Hudson** to John Moore, conveys 200 acres on Black Creek, 2.5 miles north from Savannah River. Witnesses: David Thorn, William Mannen and Moses Horton."  
*The identity of this Nathaniel Hudson is unknown to the author, but based on the location of the deeded lands on Black Creek, it seems a certainty that Nathaniel was descended from Samuel Hudson Sr. He may have been a son of Robert Hudson Sr. and brother of Robert and James. Nathaniel Hudson became a Justice of Peace for Effingham County and by 1803 was recorded as Sheriff of the County. This tract would have been within a couple of miles of the lands of Brownson and Dunwoody.*
32. 19May1789 – "**William Colson**, planter, of Effingham County to **Thomas Garnet** of Effingham County, planter, for 300 acres in said County bounded east by James Jones estate and land surveyed for Joseph Petit; south by **Richard Scruggs, Jr.**, and William Mannen, north and west by Benjamin Daly, and being south part of 600 acres lying near **Hudson's Mill Branch**. Witness: Theophilus Lundy, J.P."  
*As already stated, William Colson was married to Martha Beville, daughter of Paul Beville Sr. and Sarah Scruggs. This record has been included because of its involvement with Thomas Garnet, father of John Garnett, husband of Mary Bostick, daughter of Samuel Bostick and Ann Mary Maner. So, it would appear that Thomas Garnett, a kinsman of the Bosticks, owned a tract of land in the vicinity of Black Creek and Barton's Branch.*
33. 19May1789 – "**Phillip Dell** of Effingham County, Planter, and Dorothy, his wife, to Shem Butler of Chatham County, planter, conveyed 200 acres in Effingham County, bounded east by land granted **Christopher Hudson**; 150 acres adjoining bounded south by **Samuel Hudson**, both tracts granted to said Dell; and 400 acres granted **Christopher Hudson**, and by him deeded to grantor. Consideration of £1000. Witnesses: Caleb Howell and Daniel Howell, J.P.'s."  
*These tracts sold by Phillip Dell to Shem Butler are believed to have been along the Savannah-Augusta Road to the northeast of the Brownson and Dunwoody lands on Black Creek, perhaps including the tract that abutted Nathan Brownson and Caleb Howell shown in Figure 7-10. The fact that Caleb Howell and his son, Daniel, were witnesses supports that location. Phillip Dell's daughter, Sarah, is believed to have married Enoch Daniel, the brother of Rhoda Daniel, wife of Robert Hudson Jr.*
34. Jun1789 – "Deed of Gift – from **Robert Hudson [Sr.]** of Effingham County, planter, to his grandson, **Maxwell Hudson**, minor son of **Robert Hudson [Jr.]**, the younger, deceased; conveying a Negro boy now in possession of **Rhoda [Daniel] Hudson**, widow of the said Robert, deceased. Witnesses: John R. Cleary, **Isaac Hudson**."<sup>95</sup>  
*It would appear from this record that Robert Hudson Jr. had died sometime before Jun1789, and that he had a son named Maxwell, and a wife named Rhoda, believed to have been Rhoda Daniel, daughter of Robert Lanier Daniel of Pitt County, NC. The basis for Rhoda Daniel's relationship to Robert Lanier Daniel is predicated on the following deed abstracts:*

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<sup>95</sup> Annals of Georgia, Lucas, 2004, p. 3.



## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick's Roots

1. "Robert Lanier Daniel by deed of gift to his grandson, **Samuel Hudson**, son of his daughter Rhoda Daniel, wife of **Robert Hudson** of Georgia, one mulatto girl, age 5 years named "Charita". Witnesses: George Daniel, John Wilkins and William Wilson, Jr."<sup>96</sup>; also,
2. "William "Willie" Daniel by deed of gift to **Hamilton Hudson**, nephew (son of William's sister, Rhoda), a Negro boy, age 12 years, of a yellow color, named "Dennis". Witnesses: **Enoch Daniel** and James George."<sup>97</sup>

*From the foregoing gift deeds to children of Rhoda Hudson, wife of Robert Hudson Jr. of Georgia, there seems little doubt that Rhoda was a daughter of Robert Lanier Daniel and sister of William Daniel. Further, note that Enoch Daniel witnessed the gift deed to William Daniel's nephew, Hamilton Hudson, and that he also "probated" the "gift deed" from Rhoda Hudson, "relic of Robert Hudson Jr." dated 1Jul1791, hereinafter. Some genealogical researchers report Enoch's wife to have been Sarah Dell, daughter of Phillip Dell, neighbor of Nathan Brownson, Caleb Howell and Nathaniel Hudson near Black Creek. It seems probable that Enoch Daniel was a younger brother of Rhoda Daniel, who had removed from Pitt County, NC to St. Matthew's Parish, GA, where he met and married a daughter of Phillip Dell.*

### 35. Jun1789 – Gift Deeds:

1. "Robert Hudson to his daughter, Jane Lunday, spouse of Nathaniel Lunday, one slave named "Peggy". Witnesses: John R. Cleary and Isaac Hudson. Probated by Cleary before Paul Beville, J.P."

*From this gift deed it is established that Jane Hudson, daughter of Robert Hudson, Sr. was married to Nathaniel Lunday, son of Abraham Lunday. Isaac Hudson, who witnessed this gift deed may have been a son of Robert Hudson Sr.*

2. "Robert Hudson to his grandson, James Bilbo, one slave named "Dennis", age of seven years, now in possession of Jane, the spouse of Nathaniel Lunday, natural mother of said James Bilbo. Witnesses: John R. Cleary and Isaac Hudson. Probated by Cleary before Paul Beville, J.P."  
*This gift deed record establishes that Jane Hudson had been married to a Bilbo [John], with whom she had had a son named James Bilbo.*

3. "Robert Hudson to his grandson, Theophilus Lunday, son of Jane and Nathaniel Lunday one slave child of six years. Witnesses: John R. Cleary and Isaac Hudson. Probated by Cleary before Paul Beville, J.P."

*This gift deed establishes that Jane Hudson and Nathaniel Lunday had a son named Theophilus, probably in honor of Nathaniel's brother, Theophilus Lunday.*

4. "Robert Hudson to his granddaughter, Mary Esther Lunday, infant daughter of Jane and Nathaniel Lunday one mulatto girl named Phoebe, about four years old now in possession of Jane Lunday. Witnesses: John R. Cleary and Isaac Hudson. Probated by Cleary before Paul Beville, J.P."  
*This gift deed establishes that Jane Hudson and Nathaniel Lunday had a daughter named Mary Esther.*

### 36. 10Nov1789 – "**Robert Beville**, and wife Rebecca, conveyed to William Thorn, saddler, all of Effingham County 180 acres lying at head of Three Runs in Effingham County, being part of 200 acres adjacent **Paul Beville**, **James Hudson** and **William Colson**. Witnesses: William Webb, **Nathaniel Hudson**, **Paul Beville**, J.P.

*This is believed to have been Robert Beville III, son of Robert Beville Jr. and Sarah Ford, born about 1752 in Prince George County, VA. Robert's first wife was Sarah Williams of South Carolina, reportedly the widow of an unknown Hudson, prior to marrying Robert Beville on 27Dec1774 in Effingham County[?]. There were several intermarriages between the Hudsons, Bevilles, Scruggs, Dells and Colsons, some even before these families arrived in Georgia. The previous husband of Robert Beville's first wife is reported to have been a Hudson. Assuming the typical turnaround on marriages following deaths of spouses, it seems likely that Sarah Williams' deceased Hudson husband probably died sometime around 1772-3. Given the Hudson family records presented herein, the only Hudson that is known to have died before 1774 was Samuel Hudson Sr. Given that Robert Beville and Sarah Williams are known to have had several children together, it hardly seems likely that Sarah Williams would have been the widow of Samuel Hudson Sr., unless perhaps she was a 2<sup>nd</sup> wife and many years younger than Samuel Sr. This scenario is not impossible, but seems unlikely. The identity of Robert Beville's wife in this document is named Rebecca and is unknown to the author. They were probably married sometime between 1786 and Nov1789. They*

<sup>96</sup> Pitt County North Carolina, Deed Book A, Page 29, dated 14Sep1782, recorded 17Nov1798.

<sup>97</sup> Pitt County North Carolina, Deed Book A, Page 15 (113), recorded 1Feb1789.



## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick's Roots

*do not appear to have had any children together. However, there is evidence that Robert Beville Sr. very likely was the father of McLinn Beville, the bastard son of Frances Elizabeth McLinn. Francis Elizabeth McLinn, originally of Chatham County is believed to have married (1) Theophilus Lunday, brother of Nathaniel Lunday, and (2) Theophilus Lunday, son of Nathaniel Lunday.*

37. 1Jul1791 – “Deed of Gift – from Rhoda [Daniel] Hudson, relic of **Robert Hudson Jr.**, late of Effingham County, deceased, to her children born by her said husband, viz.: **Samuel, Robert, Mary and Maxfield** [Maxwell] Hudson, conveying three slaves, household goods, horse, carriage and chair, life estate reserved. Witnesses: **William Colson, Enoch and Sarah Daniel**. Probated by **Enoch Daniel** before Abraham Ravot, J.P., 22Nov1792.”<sup>98</sup>

*This record is reported as a “Gift Deed” but the description of the conveyances reads more like a LWT, given the reference to being “probated”. Robert Hudson Jr. is believed to have married Rhoda Daniel as described hereinabove. Enoch Daniel is believed to have been Rhoda's brother. William Colson is believed to have married Martha Beville, daughter of Paul Beville and Sarah Scruggs.*

38. 11Feb1799 – **Robert Hudson**, grant of 200 acres in Screven County, bounded southwest by The [Three] Runs, northwest by **Paul Bevel** and Vacant land, northeast by **Robert Hudson Jr.**, and southeast by **Benjamin Goldwire; Samuel Hudson**, chain bearer.

*This filing probably was by Robert Hudson Sr., given that it makes reference to adjacent land owned by Robert Hudson Jr. This tract is described as being bounded to the southwest by Three Runs Creek. It should be noted that another, earlier grant had been made to **Robert Hudson, Christopher Hudson** and **James Nolebay** on Three Runs Creek in Dec1767 as a timber source for their new Saw Mill. Also, note that Three Runs Creek, Barton's Branch and Rooty Branch were in very close proximity to each other, so this tract would not have been far removed from the various Hudson's land on Rooty Branch and Barton's Branch. Also note the adjacent landownership by Paul Beville, who was a son of Robert Beville Jr. and son-in-law of Richard Scruggs, his having married Sarah Scruggs.*

39. 9Jan1800 – Will be sold, on the 30<sup>th</sup> instant, at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, at the house of **Christopher Hudson**, deceased, in Screven County: the whole estate of the said **Christopher Hudson**, consisting of four negroes, one or two horses, two guns, some tools, and household furniture. **Hannah Hudson**, Administratrix.”<sup>99</sup>

*This was Christopher Hudson Sr.*

40. 4Aug1800 – **Robert Hudson** granted 65 acres in Screven County (part of 200 acre warrant), bounded north and south by **Richard Scruggs**, all other sides by said **Robert Hudson; Richard Scruggs** and **Samuel Hudson**, chain bearers.

*Undoubtedly this was Robert Hudson Sr., owner and operator of Hudson's Ferry. This tract would have been in the near vicinity of Barton's Branch.*

41. 4May1805 – “Deed of gift dated 21Feb1801 - **Joshua Loper** to grandson Joshua Hudson, son of **James Hudson and Sarah**, his wife, 300 acres of land being part of 750 acres granted Joshua Loper on 7Nov1792 by his Excellency, Edward Telfare, Governor. Signed Joshua Loper. Wit.: Abel G. Loper and Ara Loper.”<sup>100</sup>

*James Hudson is believed to have been a son of Robert Hudson Sr., and son-in-law of Joshua Loper, having married Sarah Loper. The author believes that this James Hudson was the same person named in the two following records. Note that Joshua Loper was a messenger of the Coosawhatchie and Pipe Creek Baptist Churches in the previous 20 years (more on Joshua Loper to follow).*

42. 2Mar1807 – **James Hudson** granted 450 acres in Screven County, bounding east on Savannah River, south on **Paul Bevil Sr.**, Daniel Daly and **James Hudson**, west by Daniel Daly, **James Hudson** and John McKenzie, and north by **John Martin Dasher's** estate.

*James Hudson's last known grant was 200 acres received on 7Mar1785 as described in Item 30, above. This grant of 450 acres appears to abut that earlier grant and is located in the vicinity of Barton's Branch. Paul Beville Sr. was married to Sarah Scruggs, daughter of Richard Scruggs. John Martin Dasher's father and grandfather operated a public house on the Old River Road about five miles south of Barton's Branch near Mount Pleasant.*

43. “Ordered that Monday the 25th day of May, 1807, next, be assigned for the trial of the following Caveat, to wit: **James Hudson**, in behalf of Randal Ramsey, appellant, vs. **John Dunwoody**, in behalf of **Mary**

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<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>99</sup> *Georgia Gazette*, (Savannah), Issue 846, Page 3, 9Jan1800.

<sup>100</sup> *Annals of Georgia*, Lucas, 2004, p. 87.

## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick’s Roots

**Dunwoody**, respondent, Appeal – 250 acres of land in Screven County, adjoining lands of **Dunwoody, Brownson** and Shepherd.”<sup>101</sup>

*Now, having come full circle, we return to the Public Notice concerning a suit filed by James Hudson on behalf of Randal Ramsey against John Dunwoody, in behalf of Mary Dunwoody, respondent – concerning a 250 acre tract in Screven County adjoining lands of Dunwoody and Brownson. The tract involved in this suit no doubt was the same property involved in a plat map surveyed on 26Jul1806 for Randal Ramsey which read as follows:*

“Screven County, Georgia – Pursuant to a warrant dated 7Oct1805, surveyed 26Jul1806 – for Randal Ramsey, who resides in this state a tract of 250 acres of land lying on the south prong of Black Creek and bound as the above Plat represents. James Oliver, Deputy Surveyor.”

*Note that this plat showed the subject tract bounded north by Dunwoody, west by Brownson, south by Brownson and William Shepherd, and east by vacant lands. The referenced Brownson and Dunwoody tracts were certainly part the same lands granted to Nathan Brownson and Robert Dunwoody in 1787. The basis for this lawsuit is not known, but it is significant to this investigation on several levels:*

1. It provides a linkage between James Hudson, son of Robert Hudson Sr. and future operator of Hudson’s Ferry, and Robert Dunwoody and Nathan Brownson, albeit unclear as to the nature of that linkage.
2. It establishes the likelihood that Robert Dunwoody probably had heirs of his body, namely John Dunwoody and Mary Dunwoody, or perhaps Mary Dunwoody was Robert’s widow, and John was their son.
3. That these Dunwoody’s continued to have a presence on Black Creek in Screven County in 1807.
4. And, that the tracts originally granted to Nathan Brownson on Black Creek in Effingham County (later Screven County) were still being carried in 1807 with a Brownson name on the title. It is known that Galen Brownson purchased some of Nathan’s tracts from Alexander McQueen in 1789, but it is not known which of those tracts were acquired by Galen, and which may have remained in the ownership of Nathan Brownson. Nathan appears to have died intestate in 1796, while Galen appears to have died intestate in 1802. The author has not been able to ascertain whether there were any legal heirs to the estates of either Nathan or Galen still living in 1807, but it is known that Betsey Brownson Jones and Dr. James Dunwoody Brownson were still alive at that time, and conceivably could have succeeded to the Brownson lands on Black Creek.

This concludes the investigation of the Hudson family, who became the owners and operators of Hudson’s Ferry. From this analysis it has been shown that Robert Hudson Sr. owned land in St. Peter’s Parish, Beaufort District, SC and in Effingham County, GA adjacent to both landings of the Hudson’s Ferry. This ferry was a primary access route between Granville County and upper Effingham County. The ferry head on the Georgia side of the Savannah River was located at the mouth of Barton’s Branch, and within about five miles of Nathan Brownson’s tracts on Black Creek. The ferry head on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River was located about two miles from Boggy Gut, where Richard Bostick acquired tracts in the 1790’s, and about five miles from Benjamin Robert Bostick Sr.’s old home place, Ingleside Plantation, on Kings [aka Bostick’s] Branch adjacent to the Old Augusta Stage Road (see Figure 7-12). Given the placement of the Hudson’s Ferry, it would have provided Nathan Brownson with about four hours travel time to the home of Richard Bostick on Black Swamp and vice versa.

Moreover, it should not be dismissed that James Hudson and Reuben Roberds appear to have been involved in the joint operation of Hudson’s Ferry in the 1820’s, as evidenced by the following petition abstract:

“Date: 11/24/1823

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<sup>101</sup> Paper: Louisville Gazette (Louisville, GA), Friday, May 22, 1807, Issue: 372, Page: 2.

## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick's Roots

Description: **ROBARDS, REUBEN, JAMES HUDSON**, AND INHABITANTS OF ST. PETERS PARISH, PETITION ASKING THAT A ROAD LEADING TO THEIR FERRY ACROSS SAVANNAH RIVER BE KEPT OPEN, AND THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF SAID FERRY. (2 PAGES; OVERSIZE)  
Names indexed: HUDSON, JAMES; ROBARDS, REUBEN<sup>102</sup>

Reuben Roberds was a son of George Roberds, born 28Jan1778 in St. Peter's Parish, Beaufort District, SC. He married: (1<sup>st</sup>) Margaret Catherine Ball, daughter of Dr. Sampson Ball on 14Feb1808 (d. 13Mar1818), and (2<sup>nd</sup>) Naomi Wylly, daughter of Thomas Wylly and Naomi Roseburg, on 26Jul1821 in Effingham Co. GA. Reuben and Naomi had three children, including a daughter named Catherine Elizabeth Roberds, who married Benjamin Robert Bostick Jr. on 29Jan1846. Following Reuben's death at his plantation near Matthew's Bluff on 20Jan1827, his widow, Naomi Wylly Roberds, married Jacob S. Bostick, son of Richard Bostick and his first wife, Mary Hannah [Brownson?]. Naomi Wylly and Jacob S. Bostick had two children, including Mary Elizabeth Bostick, who married Reverend Henry John Stevens of Liberty County, GA. Reuben Roberds sister, Elizabeth Catherine Roberds, married Richard Allen Williams in about 1788 in Beaufort District, SC. Richard Allen Williams was a recent immigrant to Granville County, SC from Pitt County, NC, where his family had been established for several generations. Richard Allen Williams and Elizabeth Catherine Roberds settled along the Old Augusta Stage Road in the Pipe Creek area where they operated a country store. Their son, Richard Allen Williams Jr. married Ann Elizabeth Margaret Wylly, a younger sister of Naomi Wylly. Another child of Richard Allen Williams and Elizabeth Catherine Roberds, Elizabeth Allen Williams, married Henry Elliot Solomons, son of Saul Solomons and Esther Elliott. Samuel Solomons, brother of Henry Elliott Solomons, married Mary Ann Elizabeth Bostick, daughter of John R. Bostick (son of Richard Bostick and Mary Hannah) and Eliza McKenzie.

The foregoing genealogical connections provide several direct and indirect links between Reuben Roberds and the Richard Bostick family. Such connections do not provide any kinship link between the Roberds or Bostick families, and the Hudsons or their allied families. However, these genealogical connections to Reuben Roberds do contain links to Effingham County as well as to Pitt County or Bertie County, NC, both of which locations hold strong connections for many of the Hudson and allied families previously discussed. More to the point, the Thomas Wylly family of Effingham County has numerous other links to persons allied with the Bostick family, including intermarriages with the Garnetts, Porters, Tysons, Kittles, Bevilles, Solomons, Williams, Staffords, Maners, Lawsons, Robert and Roberts/Roberds, etal. Research of those allied families shows frequent geographic interconnections between these various parties from Beaufort District, SC and Effingham and Chatham Counties, GA. With such blending and ebbing and flowing back and forth across the Savannah River it is easy to visualize a scenario under which a daughter of Dr. Nathan Brownson could have met and married Richard Bostick. The dates and geographic proximity clearly support the possibility of such a convergence between these parties.

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<sup>102</sup> SCDAB

## Baptist Connections

In addition to the kinship and geographic connections between these populations and locales, there was also a significant *spiritual connection via the Baptist Church*. The first Baptist Church in the southeast corner of Screven County in the vicinity of Hudson's Ferry was formed at Rooty Branch around 1803, known as the "Old Site". It very likely was preceded several decades by a Baptist meeting that was established at Tuckasee King (near Mount Pleasant) in the 1770's. The earliest record of this church formation was at Newington Plantation, Chatham County near the northern border of the Little Ogeechee District, where parishioners began meeting at the home of Thomas Polhill near Goshen in 1793. For the next four years these early Baptists alternated their meeting place between Polhill's Newington Plantation near Goshen and the [David] Fox family's home near King's Bridge [Landing] on the Ogeechee River. The first official meeting house, known as "Bethel", was built at King's Bridge in 1797. In 1802 the Bethel congregation removed to Newington Plantation. Between 1803 and 1806 the Bethel congregation met in conference with the Rooty Branch [Tuckaseeking?] meeting, an arm of the Black Swamp Baptist Church (Robertville, South Carolina), wherein they resolved to meet in the future at Rooty Branch. The Old Church continued to meet at Rooty Branch until 1878, when it was decided to move to the "New Site" situated about five miles to the northwest near the town of Newington (no known connection to Newington Plantation), where it has resided to the present day under the name of North Newington Baptist Church on Newington Highway, about two miles south of Nathan Brownson's Black Creek property. A brief history of this church is as follows:

"This church was constituted at Newington Plantation, Chatham County, 1793, in the home of Thomas Polhill. Meetings alternated between the Polhill home near Goshen settlement and the Fox Family home near King's Bridge on the Ogeechee River until 1797. The first meeting house, called Bethel, was built at King' Bridge, 1797. In 1802 it removed to Newington Plantation. Members met in conference at Rooty Branch Church, Screven County, an arm of Black Swamp Baptist Church, South Carolina, 1803 to 1806, where they resolved to meet in the future at this house. In 1826 the name was changed to Newington, Screven County, and in 1852 to North Newington. In 1879 the church was moved to the present site. Affiliated with Carolina Assn. at first, then the Savannah River Assn. in 1802, the Sunbury Assn. in 1830, this church has been a member of the Baptist Middle Assn. since 1841. Early officers were:

Pastors: John Goldwire, Henry Hand, John L. Southwell, Isaac Nichols, Wm. W. Lee, William Spiers.

Deacons: Thos. Polhill, Wm. Mathers, Benj. Fox, Josiah Fox, James Goldwire, Daniel Dampiers, Paul B. Colson.

Clerks: David Fox, Thos. Fox, Henry W. Williams, James Goldwire, Paul B. Colson.

The "New Site" of North Newington Baptist Church and Cemetery is about two miles northeast of the Town of Newington, at 11572 Newington Highway (Georgia Highway 24) [about one mile from the headwaters of Three Runs Creek]. The "Old Site" of the church had been established in southeastern Screven County at Rooty Branch (a small tributary to the Savannah River), by about 1803. The church moved nearly five miles WNW to this "New Site" in 1878-1879. The Georgia Historical Commission erected this marker (124-14) at the "New Site" in 1959."<sup>103</sup>

There are several important connections to be made from this history of the North Newington Baptist Church:

1. The original members of this Church were from the Little Ogeechee District, and included several members of the Fox family, including Benjamin Fox, Josiah Fox, David Fox and Thomas Fox. This Fox family will be shown later in this chapter to have had very close ties to Nathan Brownson.

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<sup>103</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&CRid=2250524>, accessed 5Mar2015.

## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick's Roots

2. The "Old Site" of this church was located on Rooty Branch, the same location already shown to have been the site of numerous plantations owned by Hudsons, Scruggs, Bevilles, Goldwires, etc.
3. Paul Beville Colson, listed as an early deacon of this church, was descended from members of the Colson, Beville and Scruggs families.
4. James Goldwire, listed as an early deacon of this church, is believed to have been James Little Goldwire, son of Captain James Goldwire (killed by British forces on Beech Island, SC in 1780) and Sarah Stuart, recorded born on 25May1775 in Ebenezer Church. James Little Goldwire married his 1<sup>st</sup> cousin, Sarah Grace King, daughter of William King Jr. and Sarah Goldwire. Sarah Goldwire is believed to have been a daughter of John Goldwire [Sr.] and Sarah Turner Retford. Note that Sarah Grace King Goldwire married Colonel Thomas Wylly (widower of Naomi Roseburg) as his 3<sup>rd</sup> wife. Also, note that Sarah Grace King is believed to have been a sister of John King, the person to whom Samuel Bostick sold his lands at Tuckaseeking Landing in 1803-5.
5. John Goldwire [Jr.], born about [?] in Savannah to John Goldwire Sr. and Sarah Turner Polhill. He was an ordained minister and a long-time preacher at the Rooty Branch Church and an occasional preacher at Euhaw and Black Swamp Churches. John Goldwire Sr.'s wife, Sarah Turner, is believed to have been the widow of Nathaniel Polhill Sr. Nathaniel Polhill Jr. was also a Baptist preacher from Savannah, and it was his son, Thomas Polhill, who was a founder of the Newington Baptist Church, which united with the Rooty Branch Baptist Church in 1806. Rev. John Goldwire married Elizabeth Mott [daughter of Abraham Mott?] on 8Nov1769. They had no children, but adopted Ann Abigail Scruggs, who married James Greenhow, a British merchant.<sup>104</sup>
6. The Newington Plantation and Rooty Branch Churches became members of the Savannah (Baptist) Association, when that association was organized in 1803-4. The Savannah Association formed a union of several Baptist churches along both side of the lower Savannah River, which included the Euhaw, Pipe Creek and Black Swamp churches.
7. Samuel Bostick, Richard Bostick's older brother, owned land and probably resided at Tuckasee King Landing, situated near old Mount Pleasant about five miles downstream from Rooty Branch.
8. Richard Bostick was an active member of the Black Swamp Baptist Church, and was elected a "messenger" from that Church in 1802, probably to participate at a convention of the Charleston Association at which eight churches from the Beaufort District (including Black Swamp) stated their intent to withdraw from the Charleston Association and to unite with the Savannah Association. Benjamin Robert Bostick Sr. was a long-time Deacon and one of the wealthiest subscribers of the Black Swamp Church.
9. Some early researchers have suggested that the Rooty Branch Church was *an arm* of the Black Swamp Church. Such association suggests that the Rooty Branch Church probably looked upon the Black Swamp Church as its "mother church" and relied on it for support and cooperation in supplying its ministers. Such close association between these churches provides an almost certainty that leaders and members of each church would have been well acquainted with one another.
10. The Rooty Branch Church was located in the immediate vicinity of Hudson's Ferry and very likely would have been the primary house of worship for many of the inhabitants of that neighborhood, including the Goldwires, Wylly's, Hudsons, Scruggs, Bevilles, Foxs, Garnetts and Porters.

Nathan Brownson had strong ties to the Little Ogechee district by virtue of his having married Elizabeth Jervey McLean, commencing with that marriage and continuing throughout his remaining years, as will be demonstrated later in this analysis. Nathan Brownson later developed strong ties with the lower Screven County area starting in about 1786 and continuing until his death, by virtue of his having acquired several tracts of land on Black Creek and establishing himself in Effingham County as one of its elected State representatives. Nathan's Black Creek property would have been situated within less than three miles of the Rooty Branch Baptist Church, which from other sources (to be discussed shortly) was very likely established as early as 1769, when it was noted as the Tuckasee King meeting house. See Figure 7-14 for a replica of the Tuckaseeking meeting house (built in 1976 by Dr. Darnell Brawner, a Savannah physician). The original meeting house is purported to have been the first ever constructed in

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<sup>104</sup> <http://genforum.genealogy.com/goldwire/messages/1.html>, accessed 10Mar2015.



Georgia, and was built under the direction and leadership of the Rev. Benjamin Stirk on a three acre site donated by John Hall. In Mar1763 John Hall filed a petition for 100 acres on the Great Ogechee abutting **Christopher Hudson**. In Nov1764 John Hall filed a petition for 200 acres at Tuckasee King near Mount Pleasant. The proximity of John Hall's first grant on the Ogechee to the grant filed by Christopher Hudson suggests that the Hudson's may have shared in John Hall's support of the Baptist church.

There is nothing in the recorded history of Nathan Brownson to suggest that he ever had a direct affiliation with the Baptist Church, but he certainly had close associates and neighbors who were either Baptists or affiliated with the Baptist Church. The Independent Congregational Church with which Nathan Brownson is believed to have been aligned from birth had very close connections, and shared beliefs and resources with the Baptist Church in both South Carolina and Georgia during colonial times. If not an active member of the Baptist Church, Nathan Brownson must have been closely acquainted with



Figure 7-14  
Replica of Tuckasee Meeting House – Circa 1769

its existence and influence within the communities in which he lived. Such awareness is evidenced by the passage of the Act of Incorporation of the Kioka Church in Richmond County, GA in Dec1789, when Nathan Brownson presided as President of the Senate.

The earliest known arrival in the southern colonies of proponents of the Baptist doctrine was Rev. William Screven's group of adherents to Charleston around 1695 from Kittery, ME. Rev. Screven's ministry led to the formation of a Baptist enclave in the greater Charleston area by 1715. His plantation, known as Somerton, was situated on the upper Cooper River, in the same general vicinity as Samuel Hudson's plantation on the south side of the Santee River. The arrival of Huguenots and their Calvinist ideologies preceded Screven by almost 20 years when they established settlements in the upper Cooper River region and on the south side of the Santee River at Jamestown. Interestingly enough, it was descendants of these Huguenots who were among the founders of the Black Swamp Baptist Church (Robert and Jaudon). A scion of the Screven family, General James Screven, settled near Sunbury in the 1770's and his son, Thomas O. Screven, laid the foundation for establishment of a Baptist Church at Sunbury. John and Charles Wesley (founders of Methodism), freshly graduated from Oxford University, were among the earliest colonial settlers to arrive at Savannah in 1736, where they were given proprietary appointments over the ministerial needs of the Colony; John Wesley to head the new Episcopal church at Savannah, while his brother, Charles, was to establish the church at Frederica. Feeling somewhat disenchanted and rejected, the Wesley brothers returned to England aboard the *Whitaker* in the Spring of 1738. On its return voyage the *Whitaker* sailed for Georgia with the Wesley's former classmate and fellow "Holy Club" member, George Whitefield, onboard.

Enough has already been written of the renowned Rev. Whitefield, so we will limit that discussion to his influences in the lower Savannah River region of Georgia. Within only a few short years after his ordination as an Anglican minister, Rev. Whitefield returned to Savannah in 1740 with the funds needed to establish an orphanage. He was granted 500 acres about three miles south of Savannah on the south side of the Vernon River, opposite the Town of Vernonburg. Whitefield recruited James Habersham Sr. to be the Head Master at Orphan House (later known as Bethesda School or “the College”). At its opening on 30 Nov 1740, Bethesda had a resident population of 61 orphans and a staff of 60 employees and volunteers. From the outset Whitefield's primary goal at Orphan House was to provide for, not only the room and board of his charges, but for their education and instillation of strong religious and moral discipline based on the Methodist model. A secondary goal was to establish a “college” at Bethesda, which would rival those being erected in the northern colonies. Toward that end, Whitefield began the collection of a vast library of the best published works by classical and contemporary scholars, containing over 2500 volumes per his estate inventory in 1770.

N. B. Since Orphan House was located only about five miles northeast of Hardwicke, it seems entirely possible that Valentine Bostick may have been considering employment at the orphanage when he applied for a license as a school master in Jun 1755. It seems highly possible that Valentine may have been exposed to and embraced the dissenting teachings of Samuel Davies, who preached for several years at Polegreen's Meeting House, near where Valentine lived as a youth along the upper Totopotomoy Creek in Hanover County, VA.

As can be seen from the foregoing, there were strong elements of dissenting religious factions among the earliest settlers of the southern colonies, most of which were well represented in and around Savannah. Virtually all of the parties associated with this investigation into the ancestry of Mary Hannah “Burroughson” seem to have been affiliated with a dissenting religious faction.

The following is a more detailed history of the early origins of the Rooty Branch Baptist Church through the eyes and memory of David Benedict written in 1813 when the Baptist Church in Georgia was still in its infancy:

“Before Mr. Bedgegood left the Orphan-house for South-Carolina, he baptized a number of persons besides those who have been named, and among them was the mother of **Reverend Thomas Polhill**, of Newington. There were about this time a few Baptist members at Goshen, Tuckaseeking, and other places; and **Benjamin Stirk** appears to have been the most distinguished and active character among them. He was a native of Leeds, Yorkshire, England. Mr. Whitefield took him under his patronage, and settled him in his employment at the Orphan-house, about 1760, or perhaps earlier. He was brought up a Presbyterian, and continued in the belief of pedobaptism until 1763, when he became what he was wont to call a Bible Christian, and was baptized as before related. He remained at the Orphan-house about four years after his baptism, where he lost his first wife, and married for his second the widow of **Nathaniel [Polhill]** and the mother of the present **Thomas Polhill**, who possessed a plantation in the neighborhood of Goshen, about eighteen miles above Savannah on the Augusta road, to which he removed in 1767. As there was no Baptist church in that vicinity, and indeed not one at that time in Georgia, he united with the church at **Euhaw [Grahamville]**, South-Carolina, about twenty five miles from him. **Mr. Stirk** began to preach soon after he settled at **Goshen**. He set up a meeting at his own house, and another at **Tuckaseeking [Mount Pleasant]**, upwards of twenty miles still higher up the country. He also preached occasionally at the **Euhaw**; and it was on his way to that church, that he fell from his horse into the water, and received an injury under which he languished for a time, and of which he died in 1770.

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**Mr. Stirk** was a good English scholar, and possessed a small share of classical learning. He was endowed with good natural parts, and was eminent for piety and zeal. Having a desire to promote the interests of learning, he became a benefactor to Rhode-Island College.

As Mr. Stirk's second wife [**Hannah Barksdale Miller Polhill**] was a woman honorable and eminent in her day among the few Baptists who were then scattered in this part of Georgia, it may be proper to give a short account of her. This lady is remarkable for having been the wife of two Baptist ministers and the mother of a third [Thomas Polhill]. She was born in South-Carolina, in 1732, of pious and reputable parents [Thomas Barksdale and ...], of the Presbyterian persuasion. Her name at first was **Hannah Barksdale**. She was four times married. Her husbands' names were Miller, Polhill, Stirk, and Scott. The first was a merchant of Charleston, with whom she lived but about a year. The second [**Nathaniel Polhill**] was a preacher in Mr. Whitefield's connection, a pious and worthy man. He embarked for England in 1761, to obtain Episcopal ordination. But before he left Charleston harbour, a violent whirlwind divided the river so that the channel was seen, and the ship and all on board were swallowed up by the returning waves. Mr. Stirk has been mentioned. Her fourth and last husband was **Reverend Alexander Scott**, for many years pastor of the church at **Black Swamp**, in South-Carolina. With him she lived about seven years; and then, after lingering some time, died in peace, March 10, 1780, in the 48th year of her age. Mr. Scott, about three years ago [1810], removed to the Mississippi country, where he died shortly after.

**Reverend Thomas Polhill**, the only surviving child of this venerable woman, is of opinion that she was the first person who was baptized in Georgia. While the Baptists were but few in the parts where she lived, her house was a home for preachers, and her active benevolence was extended to all around her.

Besides the persons already mentioned, there were baptized in these times a Mr. Cox [Fox?], and a Mr. Williams and his wife, and others whose names are not known.

Having thus prepared the way, we shall next proceed to relate the history of some of the churches in this part of Georgia.

**Newington.** -- This church appears to have been the oldest of white people which was formed in the region now under consideration. It took its name from that of a plantation on which the meeting-house was erected, in the neighborhood of Goshen, in the county of Effingham, eighteen miles from Savannah, and was constituted in 1793. But since that time the seat of the church has been removed to the adjoining county of Screven [Rooty Branch]. This church is small now, and has never been large, and no very remarkable things can be said respecting it. It was one of the three churches which formed the Savannah-River Association.

For the origin of this church, we must go back about fifty years; for it appears there have been scattered Baptist members in this vicinity ever since the dispersion of Mr. Bedgegood's disciples from the Orphan-house. The first Baptist minister who preached here was **Benjamin Stirk**. After him were **Mr. Botsford** and **Mr. [Alexander] Scott**; but no special effects attended the ministry of either of these men. In 1789, a black man [Andrew Bryan or Bryant] preached in the neighborhood in a negro yard under some peach trees. Curiosity led some white people to hear him, and among the rest was **Major, now Elder Thomas Polhill** and his wife [**Mary Anderson**]. They were both convicted by the discourse of this poor sable preacher, and in a short time were brought into the liberty of the gospel, and baptized by Mr. Scott [Thomas Polhill's step-father]. From the time of his conversion, Major Polhill became a patron of the Baptist cause, and a promoter of meetings in his neighborhood. He invited Baptist ministers to preach in his house: God blessed their labors and in 1793, a sufficient number had been baptized to form a church, which, as soon as it was organized, chose **Mr. John Goldwire** for their pastor, who had been ordained two years before. Mr. Goldwire still continues the pastor of the church, although very aged and infirm. Mr. Polhill also became a preacher of the gospel, and is now an assistant to the aged and venerable Goldwire. [N.B. This could not have been in 1813, when David Benedict wrote his history, as Rev. Goldwire had died in 1792.]

**Savannah.** -- This city contains three Baptist churches, one of white people, and two of Africans. The history of the African churches will be related in the account which we propose to give of that people. The church of white people was founded by its late pastor, **Dr. [Henry] Holcombe**, now of Philadelphia. It was constituted in 1800, but was begun six years before that time, in the following manner. In 1794, Messrs. Jonathan Clark, **George Morse [Mosse?]**, **Thomas Polhill of Newington**, and David Adams, one of the deacons of the church in Charleston, proposed the erection of a house of worship for the Baptists in this city. But, as the Baptist members were few in number, and these generally poor, there appeared but little prospect of success... The constituent members were Henry Holcombe and wife, **George Morse [Mosse?]** and wife, **Elias Roberts [brother of John Robert, Richard Bostick's father-in-law]** and wife [**Mary Rue**],

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Rachel Hamilton, Esther McKenzie, Elizabeth Story, Martha Stephens, Eunice Hogg, and Mary Jones, widow of the late Lieutenant-Governor of the State.

**Sunbury.** -- At this place, which is some distance below Savannah, there is a very respectable church under the care of Mr. Charles O. Screven, a graduate of Rhode-Island College [Brown University]; but I have not obtained any particulars respecting its origin.

### SAVANNAH-RIVER ASSOCIATION

This body was organized in Savannah in 1802. It was composed at first of only three churches, which were the two in Savannah and the one at Newington. But not long after, a number of churches belonging to the Charleston Association were dismissed from that body, and united with this. The new churches, which have been raised up in this part of Georgia and the neighboring parts of South-Carolina [including Euhaw, Black Swamp, Cypress Creek and Pipe Creek], have become members of this Association. It has progressed with harmony and prosperity, and has increased to almost thirty churches, and upwards of five thousand members.”<sup>105</sup>

### Robertville (Black Swamp) Baptist Church.

The congregation of this white clapboard church in Jasper County village of Robertville was organized around 1781 by the **Reverend Alexander Scott [step-father of Thomas Polhill]**. The church initially was called Black Swamp Baptist Church, named for its location along the blackwater wetlands. It is said to have given rise to several other churches in that part of the state.

“Pre-dating the older structure was a handsome building put up by Black Swamp Baptists, who established an organization in 1781. A Robertville writer of the 1870’s included in his annals the physical appearance of this church, as it was described by him: “....it was very large, plastered, painted, high-steepled, had a gallery on three sides, the whole flooring neatly carpeted, and furnished with an organ. It was built fifty years before the War, and is said by those who knew to have been the best proportioned and the finest country church in the state.” This elaborate sanctuary went up in the Federal flames that razed the village of Robertville.

Not much time went by after the War, however, before these undaunted Baptists had another church. They purchased a building from Gillsonville Episcopalians and transported it piece by piece, to its present site. And so the edifice stands today as it was first built in 1845 in another village, its gracious lines a stately reminder of the past.

In the interior, repaired and repainted, are substantial seats contiguous to the walls, on either side of a center aisle. These are not the original pews. From the Church of the Ascension (for this is what it was in Gillisonville, as an Episcopal chapel), the original ones were bequeathed to the Gillisonville Baptist Church, where they are still in use.

The wealthy planters of rice and cotton who constituted the first Black Swamp church were well-known for their piety, and for their interest in the religious well-being of lesser-privileged neighbors. Churches at Steep Bottom and Cypress Creek owe their existence to these cultured, devout masters of slaves; who gave their means and encouragement to a number of groups subsequently organized [probably including Rooty Branch]. It is reported in Baptist annals that some fifty white and more than 100 colored ministers went out from the Black Swamp Church’s membership in earlier years. Distinguished visitors were known to attend the services. And oftentimes visitant in the late 1700’s was the Rev. Richard Furman; in the 1800’s, the Revs. Richard Fuller, Thomas Rambaut and Charles Manly.

Wars have come and ended and many who sat within the church’s historic walls have made their contribution to the nation’s history and passed on to their reward. In the churchyard one discovers several Confederate markers, as one reads the many names of early families: Blount, Boyd, Jaudon, Bostick, Lawton, Joyner, Sweat, Kittles, McKenzie, Norton, Youmans, Tison, Richardson, Martin, and Solomons.”<sup>106</sup>

“In 1786, a Baptist Church was organized at Black Swamp by the Lawton, Grimball, Jaudon, Audibert and Robert families.”<sup>107</sup>

<sup>105</sup> <http://www.reformedreader.org/history/benedict/baptistdenomination/georgia.htm>, accessed 6Mar2015.

<sup>106</sup> Moving Finger of Jasper

<sup>107</sup> The History of Beaufort County, South Carolina: 1514-1861, Lawrence Sanders Rowland, p. 301.



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Persons of interest to this discussion frequently appeared in the early records of the Baptist church in South Carolina as follows:

- *Coosawhatchie Church* – Ministers: James Sweat (1791-1794) and Aaron Tison (1795-1802); Messengers: Joshua Loper [father-in-law of James Hudson] (1775).
- *Pipe Creek Church* – Minister: Henry Holcombe (1786-93), Messengers: John Grimbball [husband of Elizabeth Robert, who later married Alexander Scott] and Joseph Lawton [husband of Sarah Robert, sister of John, Elias and Elizabeth Robert] (1778), James Sweat (1786-1789, Joshua Loper [father-in-law of James Hudson], David Loper and Joseph Garnett (1789).
- *Euhaw Church* – Ministers: John Goldwire (1790), Henry Holcombe (1791-1799) and Aaron Tison (1804); Messengers: Joseph Grimbball (1775), John Screven (1788), John Goldwire and Dr. George Mosse (1789)
- *Black Swamp Church* – Ministers: Alexander Scott (1786-1802) and John Goldwire (part of 1791); Messengers: Elias Robert (1786), Joseph Lawton (1788, 1789, 1792, 1796 and 1798), John Robert [Richard Bostick's father-in-law] (1789, 1792 and 1796), Thomas Polhill, Esq. (1790 and 1792), Howell Wall (1796), and Richard Bostick (1802).

From the foregoing background of the Baptist Church in Chatham and Effingham/Screven County, GA and Beaufort District, SC, it has been illustrated that its roots were closely intertwined in the lower Savannah River region. The Reverend Alexander Scott married the widow of Nathaniel Polhill, Jr., an early Baptist minister at the Orphan House in Savannah. Nathaniel Polhill's son, Thomas Polhill, is credited with being one of the founders of the Newington [aka Rooty Branch] Church. John Goldwire was the first minister of the Newington Church when it had alternating meetings between King's Bridge and Newington Plantation in Little Ogechee District, and later became its minister when it settled on Rooty Branch around 1806. Elias Robert, brother of John Robert, was active in the formation of the Black Swamp Church; and he and his wife, Mary Rue, were also two of the original twelve constituents at the formation of the Savannah Church in about 1802. John Robert was the father-in-law of Richard Bostick, who married two Robert sisters, Mary Harriet and Elizabeth as his 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> wives. Joshua Loper was the father-in-law of James Hudson, son of Robert Hudson Sr. From these records Joshua Loper appears to have moved southwesterly from Coosawhatchie to Pipe Creek, and then across the River to Effingham on the upper Great Ogechee River. Joseph Lawton was married to Sarah Robert, sister of John, Elias and Elizabeth Robert.

One final illustration of the influence of the Baptist church on these early colonial families in this lower Savannah River region is evidenced by the following estate abstract:

"20Feb1787 - Award of Arbitrators; viz., James Moore, John Postell, John Robert and Elias Robert, re: Settlement of estate of Nathaniel Polhill, differences having arisen between Thomas Polhill, a son of the deceased, and the late Hannah Scott, a daughter [wife?] of the deceased and wife of Alexander Scott of Lincoln County [Beaufort District], SC, relative to six slaves and a stock of cattle. The arbitrators find that while the said Scott was not entitled to the same by inheritance, he should have same for his trouble and expenses in looking after the estate. Witnesses: James Greenhow, John Goldwire and William Porcher."<sup>108</sup>

Within this estate arbitration abstract is seen the intertwining of parties, all connected to the Baptist church, and who had roots in Savannah, Effingham County and St. Peter's Parish, Beaufort District. The arbitrators: John and Elias Robert, were siblings and founding members of the Black Swamp Church. Nathaniel Polhill was a former minister at the Orphan House near

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<sup>108</sup> Annals of Georgia, p. 27.



Savannah. Alexander Scott, husband of the widow of Nathaniel Polhill [Hannah Barksdale], had become the minister of the Black Swamp Church the year before this estate settlement occurred. Likewise, in Jan1786 Alexander Scott had married Elizabeth Robert, the widow of John Grimbail and sister of John and Elias Robert. So, John and Elias Robert were brothers-in-law of the Rev. Alexander Scott, and father and uncle of two wives of Richard Bostick. Thomas Polhill, son of the late Nathaniel Polhill and the now deceased Mrs. Hannah Barksdale Miller Polhill Stirk Scott, was a key organizer of the Newington Church [aka Rooty Branch]. John Goldwire was a long-time minister of the Newington/Rooty Branch Church. John Postell was from the Goshen District near Newington Plantation, very likely a member of the Baptist meeting in that area. After John Postell's death in about 1789, his widow, Rosina [Inu] entered into a prenuptial agreement on her impending marriage to John Spencer, with James Greenhow as the Trustee. James Greenhow is believed to have married Anne Abigail Scruggs, a daughter of Richard Scruggs, and ward of Rev. John Goldwire. So, in this single document we have exhibited parties seemingly all connected to the Baptist church and ranging from Savannah to Rooty Branch to Black Swamp.

This abstracted settlement seems to have arisen from an issue involving property right succession spanning a period of almost 30 years, and an attempted replevin by Thomas Polhill. Nathaniel Polhill died in May1761, just one month after the birth of his youngest child, Thomas Polhill. The dispute involves slaves and livestock from Nathaniel's estate, which according to the terms of his LWT passed to his widow, Hannah, without reservations or restrictions. Thomas was an infant at the time of his father's death, but at the time of his mother's death in 1780, he would have been the last surviving blood relation, aside from his brother, Nathaniel Polhill III, who had been declared a loyalist traitor and banished by 1783. Thomas Polhill reached his majority in about 1782, probably while under the guardianship of his step-father, Alexander Scott. Thomas may have felt that he had some legal claim to his father's estate, which by that time was probably in the possession and control of Alexander Scott. Apparently the arbitrators found in favor of Hannah's husband, Alexander Scott, on basis of equity, not on the basis of any legal right. The reader will have to use their own judgment as to whether Alexander Scott's connection to Black Swamp Church, and as husband of Elizabeth Robert, may have influenced in any way the ruling by the arbitrators, and namely Scott's brothers-in-law, John and Elias Robert.

This concludes our analysis of the early Baptist influences in the lower Savannah River region. This analysis has shown strong familial, geographic, commercial and spiritual connections among these Baptist associates. Accordingly, there have been demonstrated close associations between the communities of Savannah, Little Ogechee, lower and middle Effingham County, and St. Peter's Parish, Beaufort District, SC.

This now leads our investigation to the known children of Nathan Brownson, who will be studied in their perceived order of birth:

### **Bestey [Elizabeth] Brownson**

From the birth record previously abstracted in this work it is believed that Betsey Brownson was born on 1Sep1768 at Rehoboth, MA, daughter of Dr. [Nathan] Brownson and Sophia. Whether Betsey had older siblings in unknown, but it seems very probable that there were earlier births to

this couple. Nathan graduated from Yale in 1760. If Nathan entered a medical apprenticeship immediately after graduation, he probably would have been married by about 1764. Given the relatively high certainty of these event dates, it seems highly likely that there would have been earlier births in this family.

The next known record of Betsey Brownson is abstracted as follows:

“20Mar1795 – (Liberty County) **Galen Brownson** sale of negro slaves to **Betsey Brownson**.”<sup>109</sup>

When this sale of slaves from Galen Brownson to Betsey Brownson occurred, Betsey would have been 26-1/2 years old. This was about one year before the death of Galen and Betsey's father, which reportedly occurred at his plantation at Riceboro [Georgia Gazette Obituary]. It is known from other records presented hereinafter, that Galen Brownson had received several grants of land in Georgia, as well as having purchased part of his father's holdings at Black Creek in Effingham County. It is not known just where Galen was residing at the time of this sale of slaves to his sister, but very likely somewhere in Liberty County in the near vicinity of his father's plantation. Since Betsey is not known to have acquired any land at this time, it seems probable that she was still living at home and caring for her aging father.

The next record found for Betsey is the following abstract of her marriage:

“18Jan1804 - Augusta, Richmond County, **Elizabeth Brownson**, spinster, and **Charles Jones** were married, Holland McTyre provided security bond.”

Also;

“On Thursday evening last, Mr. Charles Jones, to Miss **Eliza Brunson**, of this City.”<sup>110</sup>

From this record it is shown that Betsey had adopted the more formal address of “Elizabeth”, she presumably was living somewhere in the vicinity of Augusta [perhaps at her father's old farm one Rae's Creek known as Bronson Place], and that she had recently married Charles Jones. In the newspaper announcement she was described as a spinster, which means she had remained unmarried until the age of 36 years. The only other item of information provided by this record is that Holland McTyre had gone surety on the marriage bond. Note that Holland McTyre also went security on the administration of Galen Brownson's estate filing in Apr1804, with Galen's new brother-in-law, Charles Jones, as Administrator.

The author has applied extensive and fairly exhaustive efforts to discover the identity of Charles Jones, but with virtually no success. One of the difficulties is that there were several gentlemen of that name residing in Augusta during that time period. Some genealogical researchers report Betsey's husband having been Hardy Charles Jones, who died in Troup County, GA in 1750. Unfortunately, the facts related to the Charles Hardy Jones family just do not fit with known facts about his purported wife, Betsey Brownson. For example, the wife of Hardy Jones is consistently reported on census records as having been born in the 1770's or 1780's, whereas Elizabeth Brownson is known to have been born in 1768. Additionally, the genealogical records of Hardy Jones show his wife having died in Troup County, GA in 1850, whereas Betsey Brownson is known to have died on 20May1847, and to have been buried in Magnolia

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<sup>109</sup> Annals of Georgia, Volume I, Liberty County..., Caroline Price Wilson, 1928, p. 50

<sup>110</sup> Augusta Herald, Vol. V, Issue 237, p. 3., 25Jan1804.

Cemetery, Augusta, GA. Lastly, Elizabeth Brownson Jones was almost certainly the Elizabeth Jones reported on the 1830 census record in District 1, Columbia County, GA as illustrated in Figure 7-15. This was almost certainly the record for the widowed Elizabeth Brownson Jones, based on reported age and proximity to Augusta, which was her reported place of residence on the 1836 bounty grant petition. Consequently, Elizabeth Brownson Jones could not have been the wife of Charles Hardy Jones, who was recorded living in Troup County with a wife and family in 1830.

Further suggestion that Elizabeth Brownson Jones was widowed by 1830 is the following item abstracted from the Augusta Chronicle:

“Date: Thursday, June 25, 1840      Paper: Augusta Chronicle  
(Augusta, GA) Page: 3  
Augusta Benevolent Society, The following are the Committees  
for the ensuing month: *Division I*: James Meridith, Demetrius  
Bland, **Mrs. Charles Jones**, and Mrs. Crump.”

Name:	Eliza Jones
Home in 1830 (City, County, State):	District 1, Columbia, Georgia
Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 60 thru 69:	1
Slaves - Males - Under 10:	4
Slaves - Males - 10 thru 23:	3
Slaves - Females - Under 10:	6
Slaves - Females - 10 thru 23:	8
Slaves - Females - 36 thru 54:	7
Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:	1
Total Free White Persons:	2
Total Slaves:	28
Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored):	30

Figure 7-15  
1830 Census – Eliza Jones

This society page notice may very well have included the name of Elizabeth Brownson Jones as a widow, described as **Mrs. Charles Jones**.

Other newspaper records from the Augusta Herald or Chronicle which may have had reference to either Elizabeth or her husband are presented hereinafter in chronological order as follows:

- Date: Thursday, April 18, 1805      Paper: Augusta Herald (Augusta, GA) Volume: VI Issue: 41 Page: 1. TO RENT – The house and lot, the corner of Jackson and Reynolds Street, as present occupied by **Charles Jones**; possession will be given 1<sup>st</sup> April. James Murren, Mar 4<sup>th</sup>. *Since this record pertained to property situated in Augusta, and listed only about 15 months after the marriage of Elizabeth and Charles, it seems probable that this was the husband of Elizabeth Brownson.*
- Date: Saturday, September 19, 1807      Paper: Augusta Chronicle (Augusta, GA) Page: 4. Also, One negro woman named Nanny, levied on as the property of **Charles Jones**, to satisfy a judgment in favor of F. Phinzy. *Ditto.*
- Date: Saturday, May 19, 1827      Paper: Augusta Chronicle (Augusta, GA) Volume: 41 Issue: 65 Page: 3. Strayed, from Mr. Horn's Lot, on Bridge Row...a bay horse...delivery of the horse either at Mr. Horn's, in Bridge Row, or to the subscriber in Burke County, near Dr. T. S. Fewes. **CHARLES JONES**, 19<sup>th</sup> May. *Since this Charles Jones was from Burke County, it seems unlikely that this was Betsey Brownson's husband.*
- Date: Tuesday, January 15, 1828      Paper: Augusta Chronicle (Augusta, GA) Volume: 42 Issue: 31 Page: 124 Letter List – **Mrs. Elizabeth Jones**. *Since this record was for mail addressed to Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, it seems very likely that it is was related to Elizabeth Brownson, and strongly suggestive that she was a widow by Jan1828.*
- List of Letters Date: Wednesday, October 5, 1842      Paper: Augusta Chronicle (Augusta, GA) Page: 3 **Mrs. Elizabeth Jones**. *Ditto.*
- Date: Friday, January 2, 1846      Paper: Augusta Chronicle (Augusta, GA) Page: 2. An Act to amend the act entitled an act to incorporate the Irwintop Bridge Company, and to regulate the rates of toll thereof; to grant to **Elizabeth Jones** the right to keep a ferry on the Savannah River; and to extend the authority of the City Council of Augusta in relation to Ferries and Bridges in said City. *Elizabeth Brownson would*

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*have been 78 years old in 1846, so, it seems doubtful that she would have been the person named in this “Ferry and Bridge” Act being considered by the Augusta City Council, but possible.*

From the various records the author was able to uncover, which might have pertained to either Charles Jones or his wife, Elizabeth Brownson, it seems very likely that Elizabeth Brownson resided in or near Augusta Georgia between 1828 and her death in 1847. These records also suggest that Charles Jones had died sometime before 1828. No census records were found in 1810 or 1820 near Augusta, which the author felt, with any confidence, could be connected to the Charles Jones and Elizabeth Brownson family. However, there were Charles Jones families in St. Peter’s Parish, SC between 1790 and 1820 in the vicinity of Black Swamp nearby to Reuben Roberds, Jacob Kittles, John Garnett, William Bourquin, John Robert, Benjamin Robert Bostick, etal, whose demographics did fit with that of Elizabeth Brownson. The Charles Jones family in Beaufort District in 1790 and 1800 is shown in Figures 7-16 and 7-17. The head of this family appears to have been too old to have been the husband of Elizabeth Brownson, but these could have been his Charles’ parent’s household.

Name:	Charles Jones
Home in 1790 (City, County, State):	Beaufort, South Carolina
Free White Persons - Males - Under 16:	3
Free White Persons - Males - 16 and over:	1
Free White Persons - Females:	2
Number of Slaves :	5
Number of Household Members:	11

Figure 7-16  
1790 Census – Charles Jones

Name:	Charles Jones
Home in 1800 (City, County, State):	St Peters, Beaufort, South Carolina
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over:	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:	1
Number of Household Members Under 16:	2
Number of Household Members Over 25:	3
Number of Household Members:	5

Figure 7-17  
1800 Census – Charles Jones

Name:	Charles Jones
Home in 1810 (City, County, State):	St Peters, Beaufort, South Carolina
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15:	2
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 :	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:	2
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:	1
Number of Household Members Under 16:	6
Number of Household Members Over 25:	2
Number of Household Members:	9

Figure 7-18  
1810 Census – Charles Jones

Name:	Charles Jones
Home in 1820 (City, County, State):	St Peters Parish, Beaufort, South Carolina
Enumeration Date:	August 7, 1820
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15:	2
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25:	2
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:	1
Slaves - Females - 45 and over:	1
Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture:	6
Free White Persons - Under 16:	4
Free White Persons - Over 25:	2
Total Free White Persons:	9
Total Slaves:	1
Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other:	10

Figure 7-19  
1820 Census – Charles Jones



The head of the Charles Jones households in 1810 and 1820 shown in Figures 7-18 and 7-19 appears to have been different from the two earlier households, and may very well have been the households of Charles Jones and Elizabeth Brownson. If the 1810 household of Charles Jones was that of Elizabeth Brownson's husband, then it would appear that he had been previously married, and had children from that marriage. One discrepancy in the 1820 household of Charles Jones is the age shown for the eldest female, presumably his wife, as aged 25 to 44 years. That female would have been born sometime between 1776 and 1794, whereas Elizabeth Brownson was born in 1768. Such variance in age is not uncommon in census records, and should not be used as the sole basis for eliminating this household as that of Elizabeth Brownson. The author cannot verify the identity of this Charles Jones having been the husband of Elizabeth Brownson, but must admit that it is tempting to do so in support of our central hypothesis, i.e., Mary Hannah, 1<sup>st</sup> wife of Richard Bostick having been born a Brownson. If the 1810 and 1820 Charles Jones households in St. Peter's Parish were those of Elizabeth Brownson's family, it would place that family right in the midst of Richard Bostick's neighborhood. By the author's hypothesis, Elizabeth Brownson would have been Richard Bostick's sister-in-law. It seems very logical that Elizabeth Brownson might have elected to marry into a family from St. Peter's Parish, SC, thus placing her in very close geographic proximity to her living blood relations, nieces and nephews, the children of Richard Bostick and Mary Hannah Brownson.

It would also place Elizabeth Brownson in relatively close proximity to her half-brother, Dr. James Dunwoody Brownson, who was living just down the hill from St. Peter's Parish, in nearby St. Helena Parish in 1810 and 1820. Further, it should be noted that in the 1830 census Elizabeth Jones appears to have been widowed and was reported with 26 slaves in her possession, whereas the Charles Jones households in St. Peter's Parish had only one slave and disappeared from St. Peter's Parish in 1830. On the other hand, Dr. James Dunwoody Brownson was reported in 1820 in possession of 35 slaves. Dr. Brownson died sometime between 1820 and 1830. Given the relatively large number of slaves in Mrs. Eliza Jones' possession in 1830, it seems highly probable that she had inherited her slaves from her deceased half-brother, Dr. James Dunwoody Brownson. As already stated, the author cannot say with certainty that the Charles Jones households in St. Peter's Parish in 1810 and 1820 were those of Elizabeth Brownson, but it does seem possible. Others may have more success in identifying these Charles Jones' of St. Peter's Parish. But until proven otherwise, the author is inclined to accept them as the family of Elizabeth Brownson.

Aside from her grave marker, there was only one other set of records found relative to Elizabeth Brownson Jones. These records pertain to her petition for a bounty land grant on 10Jun1836 on the basis of her father's service record. An image of the petition of Elizabeth Jones nee Brownson is contained in Appendix J and in Figure 7- 20. The petition consists of a preprinted form with the pertinent information hand-written on the form and attested and sealed by the appropriate authorities. Elizabeth Jones stated that she was the "heir at law" of Nathan Brownson, and that he had entered service in the Continental Line in 1779 as Deputy Purveyor of Hospitals, where he served for three years. On the petition Elizabeth named Marcellus C. M. Hammond as her lawful attorney. The petition asserts that neither Nathan Brownson, nor any other person had received the bounty grant to which he was entitled, and that, as his heir, she was asserting her claim to said grant. From Nathan's bounty grant filing in 1784, it is known that he

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was deemed entitled to a grant of 1150 acres, the amount typically granted to someone of the rank of Colonel.

In order to establish her identity, Elizabeth arranged for two long-time family acquaintances to file affidavits affirming her as the surviving daughter of Nathan Brownson. These affidavits were presented to the court by Samuel Hammond, late Colonel in the Continental Line, and by John Fox, Augusta Merchant. Samuel Hammond's affidavit has been transcribed by the author as follows:

South Carolina  
Edgefield district

At the request of Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, I do certify that I became acquainted with the late Dr. Nathan Brownson while he was acting as Purveyor General of hospital stores with Southern Army of the United States commanded by General Green and afterwards while Gov. of Georgia and continued more intimately acquainted with him and his family until his death. His family consisted of a wife being a second marriage, two children by a former wife, a son and daughter, the son named Galen and the daughter Elizabeth, the one by the last (marriage) was a boy named Dunwoody and afterwards called Dr. Brownson. Galen lived with me and was a deputy in my office as Surveyor General, died without heir and before marriage. The Dr. [James Dunwoody] Brownson died as I am informed after marriage but without heir.

Dr. Nathan Brownson's family, General Elbert's family and my own spent part of three Summers together on St. Catherine's island in Georgia.

Consequently I became as well acquainted with their children as if they had been of my own family. I have known Mrs. Elizabeth Jones ever since, though sometimes long without seeing her, being absent from the states in which she lived, **Carolina** and Georgia. Time has changed her appearance as well as my own, but still I hold her completely within my recollection, and have no hesitation to certify that she is the same person, as claimed and acknowledged to be the daughter of him the said Nathan Brownson. Signed Samuel Hammond [Colonel]

Personally appeared before me Samuel Hammond senior who being duly sworn as the law requires says on his said oath that he truthfully stated in the certificate as within his own knowledge and belief are true and believe that balance derived other information to be also true.

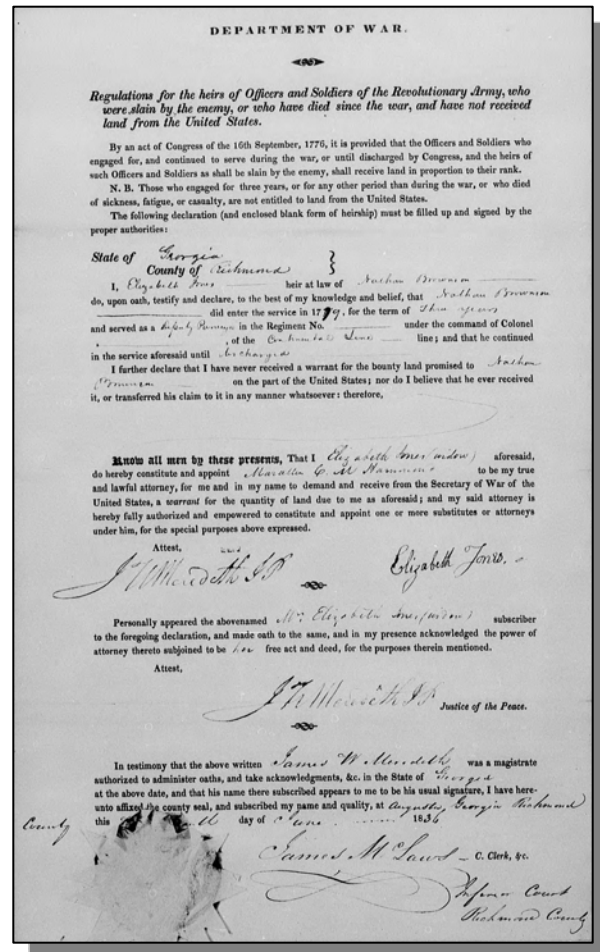


Figure 7-20  
Elizabeth Jones' Land Petition

This affidavit by Samuel Hammond offers a wealth of information about Nathan Brownson and his family, at least insofar as it was known to Col. Hammond:

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1. Hammond refers to only two marriages. It is known with certainty that Nathan Brownson had been married at least three times. From this discrepancy it can be deduced that Samuel Hammond’s knowledge of the background of Nathan Brownson prior to about 1785 was not as detailed as might appear on the surface. Certainly, Samuel Hammond would have been acquainted with Elizabeth Jervey McLean, Nathan’s presumed 3<sup>rd</sup> wife, as he would have met her on those Summer outings to St. Catherine’s Island. He also knew the family well enough to recognize that the two older children: Galen and Elizabeth, were of an earlier marriage. He probably did not know the name of the mother of those children, and apparently he was unaware of the 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage to Elizabeth Donnom Martin, or felt it unimportant to his purpose.
2. The visits to St. Catherine’s Island with Nathan’s family probably occurred during the time that Nathan owned the 1,600 acre tract on the Island, which would likely have been between Jul1785 and May1788. If as hypothesized by the author, Mary Hannah “Burroughson” was a daughter of Nathan Brownson, she and Richard Bostick probably were married sometime in 1784/5, so it is entirely possible that Samuel Hammond may never have met Mary Hannah. She and Richard probably would have been living in St. Peter’s Parish before the Summer visits to St. Catherine’s.
3. Col. Hammond would have had a clear recollection of Galen Brownson, given that Galen was a Deputy Surveyor in 1796 in Hammond’s office of Surveyor General. Col. Hammond further stated that Galen actually lived in the Hammond household for some period of time, probably in 1796 around the time of Nathan’s death.
4. Col. Hammond stated that he had known Nathan Brownson up to the time of Nathan’s death, and that he had known Elizabeth Jones “ever since, though sometimes long without seeing her”. Further, that Elizabeth Jones had lived away from his presence for some several years in both [South] Carolina and Georgia. The reference to Elizabeth Jones having lived in Carolina would comport with her having been in the Charles Jones household in St. Peter’s parish in 1810 and 1820, during which time Samuel Hammond lived either in Georgia or Mississippi.
5. Col. Hammond was also aware of a third child named “Dunwoody”, who became Dr. Brownson. Clearly the reference to “Dunwoody” was intended for the son of Nathan and Elizabeth Jervey McLean named James Dunwoody Brownson, who lived in St. Helena Parish, SC in 1810 and 1820.
6. Col. Hammond also stated that the Summer retreats on St. Catherine’s Island had included the company of General Elbert and his wife. The reference to General Elbert clearly meant Brigadier General Samuel Elbert.

The affidavit by John Fox is transcribed as follows:

Georgia

Richmond County

Personally appeared Mr. John Fox, resident of the County and State aforesaid, who being duly sworn saith he was well acquainted with Dr. Nathan Brownson, the father of Mrs. Elizabeth Jones (widow), he further believes she is the only heir of the said Dr. Nathan Brownson, who served as Deputy Purveyor as described in the affidavit made to that effect, by his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, widow as aforesaid.

This 16<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year of our Lord 1836.

Signed: John Fox

Notary Public: A. Picquet

There is little genealogical value to be gleaned from this affidavit, except that it reaffirms several facts already in evidence, namely that Mrs. Elizabeth Jones was a daughter of Dr. Nathan Brownson, that she was widowed, and that John Fox had been “well acquainted” with Dr. Brownson’s family. Perhaps the most important thing to be learned from this affidavit is the fact that John Fox was well acquainted with the family. Armed with that knowledge it was possible to compile a wealth of information about various persons allied to the Brownsons, who had strong connections to Little Ogechee District. This added information will be presented under the subheading of the “Fox Family” as follows:

### *Fox Family*

John Fox was a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation descendant of David Fox Sr. and Elizabeth [Inu]. The origin of David Fox Sr. is unknown to the author, but at least one genealogist would have us believe that David Fox was a son of Henry Fox and Mary Claibourne of the Pamunkey Neck area in Virginia. Such connection is possible, as the ages seem to fit. One other hint of such connection is the presence of another purported descendant of Henry Fox of Virginia, that being the Henry Fox who settled in the area between the Congaree and Wateree Rivers in Richland County, SC around 1736, about the same time that David Fox appeared in St. Helena Parish, Beaufort District, SC. It is possible that Henry Fox of Richland County could have been a brother of David Fox of St. Helena, but such connection is unproven.

David Fox Sr. did not appear in any land records, nor was he found in any other records of South Carolina, save those in the church register at St. Helena listed as follows:

1. 11Dec1731 – Jonathan Fox, son of David and Elizabeth, born; bapt. 28May1732.
2. 11Dec1733 – Anne Fox, daughter of David and Elizabeth, born; bapt. 19May1734.
3. 29Jun1736 – Margaret Fox, daughter of David and Elizabeth, born; bapt. 29Aug1736.
4. 23Mar1738 – Benjamin Fox, son of David and Elizabeth, born; bapt. 27May1739.
5. 30Aug1740 – Thomas Fox, son of David and Elizabeth, born; bapt. 31Aug1742.
6. 23Apr1741 – Richard Fox, son of David and Elizabeth, born; bapt. 12Jul1741.
7. 3Jul1743 – James Fox, son of David and Elizabeth, bapt.

The dates of birth of the children of David and Elizabeth Fox overlap with the dates of birth of the children of Allen and Margaret McLean, which were also recorded at St. Helena Parish. From this fact it seems highly probable that the Fox family and the McLean family would have been acquaintances. Similar to the McLean family, members of the Fox family migrated across the River from Beaufort into the Little Ogeechee District at around the same time as evidenced in the following land grant records:

1. 7Feb1753 – Read a petition of **David Fox Sr.** of South Carolina setting forth, that he had a sufficient number of hands to cultivate a tract of land, and was desirous of moving with them into this colony; therefore he prayed for a tract of 500 acres situated on the northeast side of **Great Ogeechee River** opposite to where **Fort Argyle** stood, which if he could obtain, he promised to settle forthwith – The Board ordered 500 acres of land to be laid out for the said David Fox Sr., where he requested.<sup>111</sup> *This is presumed to have been the same David Fox, whose children were recorded born in St. Helena Parish, SC as reported above. This tract would have been situated on the Great Ogeechee in the northwest corner of the Little Ogeechee District about one mile upstream and opposite the mouth of the Conoochee River. Fort Argyle stood on the north bank of the Great Ogeechee, about one mile upstream from the confluence of the Conoochee River, and at the junction of the roads leading to Goshen and the road leading to Savannah. The southerly extension of this road led to Mount Venture on the Altamaha.*
2. 3Apr1754 – Read a petition of **John Fox**, late of South Carolina, setting forth, that he was desirous of cultivating a tract of land in the colony; therefore praying for 500 acres, situated southwest of **Mr. David Fox Jr's** land and bounding on all sides by vacant land on the south side of the South Branch of the **Little Ogeechee River** – the Board ordered 400 acres of land be laid out for the said John Fox, where he requested.<sup>112</sup> *It seems probable that the John Fox and David Fox Jr. referenced in this petition were sons of David Fox Sr, perhaps born of an earlier wife and older than the children born in St. Helena. The location of this grant probably was not far from the above grant taken out by David Fox Sr. It would*

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<sup>111</sup> Colonial Records of the State of Georgia Vol VI, Chandler, 1906, p. 385.

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 432



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appear that David Fox Jr. had previously petitioned and been granted a tract in this same area. Some records suggest that David Fox Jr. had been granted 400 acres in this area in 1752. Also note that John Fox is believed to have married Frances Bourquin, daughter of Henri Francois Bourquin.

3. Nov1755 – To David Fox [Jr.] 400 acres situate in the District of Little Ogeechee bounding northeast on Henry Bourquin's land, northwest on James Dixie and all other sides vacant lands.<sup>113</sup> Later it will be shown that John Fox, brother of David Fox Jr., married Frances Bourquin, a daughter of Henri Francois Bourquin and Susanne Marie Sunier. The Bourquin's were Swiss immigrants, who had come to the Purrysburg Colony in Beaufort District, SC around 1736.
4. Jan1756 – To Jonathan Bryan and James Edward Powell, Esq's, Robert Bolton, James Miller, Joseph Gibbons, William Gibbons, Benjamin Farley, William Wright, David Fox the younger [Jr.] in trust a lot in Savannah for Presbyterian meeting house known by Letter K in Deckers Ward.<sup>114</sup> From this record it would appear that David Fox Jr. was affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in 1756. William Gibbons is believed to have been the husband of Sarah Martin, sister of John Martin (husband of Elizabeth Donnom).
5. May1757 – Read a petition of John Fox praying for Lot No. 8 in town of Hardwicke on Great Ogeechee. Ordered that prayer be rejected. This petitioner almost certainly was the brother of David Fox, Jr. The town of Hardwicke was situated on the south bank of the Ogeechee River about 4 to 5 miles distance from the tracts granted David Jr. and John Fox earlier on the south side of the South Branch of Little Ogeechee.
6. May1757 – Read a petition of David Fox praying for Lot No. 295 in the town of Hardwicke on Great Ogeechee. Prayer granted. It is not known whether this was David Sr. or David Jr.
7. Jul1757 – Read a petition of David Fox Jr. setting forth that he was already possessed of 400 acres of land and was desirous of an additional grant, having a wife, three children and six Negroes, and praying for 200 acres of land between land of Henry Myers and John Goldwire on Great Ogeechee. Ordered rejected.<sup>115</sup> This grant, had it been approved, would have abutted land of John Goldwire, believed to have been the Baptist minister previously discussed. David Fox Jr. is believed to have been the father of John Fox, who filed the affidavit on behalf of Elizabeth Brownson Jones.
8. Mar1758 – Read a petition of Jonathan Fox setting forth that he was about to become a settler in the Province having three Negroes and was desirous to obtain a grant of land for cultivation; therefore praying for 100 acres southwest of lands granted John Fox, which if granted, he engaged to cultivate and improve the same. Postponed.<sup>116</sup> This almost certainly was the brother of John and David Jr., who was born 11Dec1731 in St. Helena Parish. Jonathan would have been about 27 years old and does not appear to have been married at time of petition.
9. Jul1758 – Read a petition of David Fox Sr. setting forth that he was lately settled in the Province and had no lands therein and having a family consisting of a wife, four children and seven Negroes, and was desirous of obtaining a grant of land for cultivation; therefore praying for 1000 acres of land, that is to say, 500 acres on the north side of the Great Ogeechee River about a mile from the land of John Primut and 500 acres upon the South Branch of the Little Ogeechee adjoining lands of Philip Delegal, which if granted he engaged to cultivate and improve the same. Granted, however, to be 1000 acres together, all run out on south side of South Branch of Little Ogeechee.<sup>117</sup> Although David Fox Sr. had been ordered 500 acres opposite Fort Argyle on 7Feb1753, the tenor of this petition suggests that he did not complete the earlier grant. This petition approved 1000 acres on the south side of the South Branch of the Little Ogeechee, probably in the vicinity of the two tracts granted his sons, John and David Jr., and nearby to Henry Bourquin.
10. May1759 – Read a petition of Jonathan Fox (postponed 7Mar1758) setting forth that he was about to become settled in this Province having three Negroes and desired to obtain a grant of land for cultivation; therefore praying for 100 acres on the South Branch of the Little Ogeechee on lands granted to John Fox. Granted.<sup>118</sup> This time Jonathan's petition was approved for 100 acres nearby to his presumed brother, John Fox.
11. Apr1759 – Read a petition of David Fox Sr. setting forth that in Jul1758 he had granted him 1000 acres of land on the South Branch of Little Ogeechee, and that the warrant issued for surveying the land is expired in

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<sup>113</sup> Colonial Records of the State of Georgia Vol VII, Chandler, 1906, p. 292.

<sup>114</sup> Ibid., p. 312-3.

<sup>115</sup> Ibid., p. 586.

<sup>116</sup> Ibid., p. 737.

<sup>117</sup> Ibid., p. 788.

<sup>118</sup> Ibid., p. 917.

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its term and the survey not made; therefore praying that the Surveyor General might be enabled and ordered to issue a new precept on the said warrant that the land so granted might be surveyed and regular plat returned. Granted.<sup>119</sup> *Ditto, Item 9, above.*

12. May1759 – Read a petition of **David Fox Sr.** setting forth that in Jun1758 he petitioned for 500 acres of land on the north side of the **Great Ogechee River**, about a mile from the lands of John Primut and for 500 acres on the **South Branch of Little Ogechee** adjoining land of **Philip Delegal**, and the Board were pleased to grant him 1000 acres in one tract on the said south side of the Little Ogechee; that on surveying the said land the same was found to contain no more than 500 acres of improveable land, so that the petitioner was possessed of only that quantity, notwithstanding the aforesaid grant; therefore praying for the 500 acres heretofore petitioned on the north side of Great Ogechee. Granted, except that additional 500 acres to be adjacent to 500 acres on Little Ogechee, to satisfaction of petitioner.<sup>120</sup> *Presumably David Sr. settled on two tracts of 500 acres each in near proximity to his sons' lands on south side of South Branch of Little Ogechee.*
13. Mar1761 – This day was heard in Council the claim of **Catherine, wife of David Fox** of the Province, planter, to a moiety of a town lot in Savannah with the lands appertaining, as one of the daughters and coheirs of **Robert Potter**, deceased, to who the premises were originally allotted; **Mrs. Deborah Houston**, another of the said Robert Potter's daughters, having endeavoured to support a sole right therein, and for some time past contested that the said Catherine's title to a part thereof on account of illegitimacy. Approved Mrs. Fox's claim to moiety, unless two other sisters (who Mrs. Houston now pretended were still living) should be made appear to be so.<sup>121</sup> *Catherine Potter was the wife of David Fox Jr.*
14. Dec1762 – Read a petition of **Jonathan Fox** setting forth that he had had 100 acres of land granted him at **Little Ogechee** adjoining which was a vacant piece supposed to contain about 100 acres very commodious for the petitioner's settlement, who had **three Negroes**; therefore was praying for the said vacant piece containing about 100 acres as aforesaid. Granted.<sup>122</sup> *Ditto.*
15. Dec1764 – Read a petition of **William Fox** setting forth that he was living in **South Carolina** but intended to remove into this Province with his family consisting of a **wife, two children and nine Negroes** by or before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Jan1765; therefore praying for a reserve for six months of 500 acres of land bounding west on a tract of land belonging to the estate of **David Fox [Sr.]**, deceased, in the **District of Little Ogechee** and that a warrant of survey might issue in the meantime to ascertain the same. Ordered reserved as prayed.<sup>123</sup> *The identity of this William Fox is not known with certainty, but undoubtedly a kinsman of David Fox Sr. given the name and proximity. From this petition it would appear that David Fox Sr. had died sometime prior to Dec1764. His LWT was written on 13Mar1760, and proven on 11Nov1762. A transcribed copy is contained in Appendix K. In his Will he identified his wife, Elizabeth, and several children as follows: Benjamin, Richard, James, George, Anne and Nancy; naming his sons: Richard and Benjamin as executors. Four of these named children comport with the birth records from St. Helena Parish, SC. George and Nancy were not among those born at St. Helena.*
16. Oct1764 – Read a petition of **Benjamin Fox** setting forth that he had been some years in the Province had had no land granted him and was desirous to obtain land for cultivation, having a **wife, a child and five Negroes**; therefore praying for 450 acres in the **District of Little Ogechee** about four miles above land laid out for **David Fox Sr.** and bounded on all sides by vacant land. Ordered granted.<sup>124</sup> *This Benjamin Fox was almost certainly the son of David Fox Sr. and Elizabeth, born at St. Helena on 23Mar1738. He would have been about 26 years old at time of this petition. Tract probably was in the vicinity of the headwaters of Pipemakers Creek.*
17. May1765 – Read a petition of **Benjamin Fox** setting forth that he had lately ordered him 450 acres of land which afterwards was found not vacant, that he had a **wife, a child and five Negroes** and was desirous to obtain land for cultivation; therefore praying for 300 acres on **Little Ogechee** bounding west on land there granted **David Fox Sr.**, deceased. Ordered granted.<sup>125</sup> *Ditto. New tract abutting his father's old 1000 acre grant, which abutted Philip Delegal.*

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<sup>119</sup> Colonial Records of the State of Georgia Vol VIII, Chandler, 1906, p. 22.

<sup>120</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 37-8.

<sup>121</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 521.

<sup>122</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 769.

<sup>123</sup> Colonial Records of the State of Georgia Vol IX, Chandler, 1906, pp. 209-10

<sup>124</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 216-7.

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 345.

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18. Jun1765 – Read a petition of **David Fox [Jr.]** setting forth that he had had 400 acres of land granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract, having **21 persons** in his family; therefore praying for 700 acres on **Crooked River** on the south side of the **Altamaha**, joining the upper part of land belonging to Joseph Cannon. Ordered granted.<sup>126</sup> *David Fox Jr's' family has grown substantially since his first grant of 400 acres in Nov1755. John Fox, who swore the affidavit for Elizabeth Brownson Jones, was a son of David Fox Jr.*
19. Jul1765 – On reading a petition of **William Fox** late of the Province of South Carolina, planter, this day presented, it is ordered that the Surveyor General do prepare and certify to and in the name of the said William Fox a plan of 500 acres of land lately ordered to be surveyed and reserved for him, bounding west on a tract of the same quantity belonging to the estate of **David Fox**, deceased, in the **District of Little Ogechee**, that His Majesty's grant may pass to him the said William Fox for the same, which land was on a like petition so surveyed and reserved for him for a certain space that he might have time to remove himself and family, as he has done, into this Province.<sup>127</sup> *This was a continuation of the petition of William Fox presented in Dec1764, Item 15, above.*
20. Aug1765 – Read a petition of **John Fox** setting forth that he had had 400 acres of land granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract, having a **wife [Frances Bourquin]**, **two children and eleven Negroes**; therefore praying for 400 acres on the cross swamp between the **Rivers Conoochee and Ogechee** to adjoin the upper line of land there granted to **Thomas Barrington, Esq.** Ordered granted.<sup>128</sup> *This almost certainly was a son of David Fox Sr., and same person who received 400 acres on Little Ogechee on 4Apr1754, Item 2, above.*
21. Mar1766 – Read a petition of **Jonathan Fox** setting forth that he was settled in the Province, had had no land granted him and was desirous to obtain land for cultivation, having **four Negroes**; therefore praying for 200 acres on the cross swamp between the **Rivers Great Ogechee and Conoochee**, about five miles from **Fort Argyle** to adjoin land there lately ordered for **his brother, John Fox**. Ordered granted.<sup>129</sup> *This Jonathan Fox appears to have been the same person, who previously filed petitions in May1759 and Dec1762, based on the fact that he appears to be unmarried and has only four slaves. However, he claims to not have received any previous grants, whereas the earlier petitions appear to have been approved. Perhaps he simply failed to follow through with his earlier petitions. He identified himself as brother of John Fox [who married Frances Bourquin].*
22. May1766 – Read a petition of **William Fox** setting forth that he was settled in the Province, had had 500 acres of land granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract having a **wife, two children and nine Negroes**; therefore praying for 200 acres between the Rivers **Great Ogechee and Conoochee** about five miles from Fort Argyle to adjoin land there **lately ordered his brother, John Fox**. Ordered granted.<sup>130</sup> *This petition establishes William Fox as a brother of John Fox and Jonathan Fox.*
23. Aug1766 – Read a petition of **Richard Fox** setting forth that he was settled in the Province, has had no land granted him and was desirous to obtain land, having **six Negroes**; therefore praying for 100 acres in the District of **Little Ogechee** to adjoin westerly on land he had purchased of Colonel Francis Harris. Ordered granted.<sup>131</sup> *This was the first record found for Richard Fox. He probably was the son of David Sr. and Elizabeth, born in St. Helena on 23Apr1743. He would have been 23 years old at the time of this filing. He does not appear to have married as yet.*
24. Oct1766 – Read a petition of **David Fox [Jr.]** setting forth that he had had only 400 acres of land granted him, but had ordered him some time since 700 acres which was found not vacant, that he was desirous to obtain an additional tract having a **wife, five children and 17 Negroes**; therefore praying for 350 acres on **Little Ogechee** to adjoin the south side of land there laid out for **William Fox**. Ordered granted.<sup>132</sup> *David Fox Jr. wrote his LWT dated 11Dec1766, which was proven 7Jan1767, so he probably died about three months after filing this petition. A transcribed copy of David Jr's. LWT is contained in Appendix L. In his Will David mentioned five children (which comports with this petition) named Elizabeth, **John**, David, Joseph and William.*

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<sup>126</sup> Ibid., p. 361.

<sup>127</sup> Ibid., p. 366.

<sup>128</sup> Ibid., p. 391.

<sup>129</sup> Ibid., p. 480.

<sup>130</sup> Ibid.

<sup>131</sup> Ibid., p. 581.

<sup>132</sup> Ibid., p. 644.

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25. Dec1766 – Read a petition of **Benjamin Fox** setting forth that he had had 300 acres of land granted him and he was desirous to obtain an additional tract, having a **wife, two children and eight Negroes**; therefore praying for 250 acres to be run in a long square being a narrow swamp and surrounded by Pine land not fit for planting to join land granted **Thomas Burrington**.<sup>133</sup> *This tract would have been in the swamp between the Conoochee and Great Ogechee, very likely nearby to his brothers: Jonathan and William. Benjamin's family has grown by addition of one child.*
26. Feb1767 – Read a petition of **Benjamin Fox** setting forth that he had ordered him 250 acres of land but on going to survey it, the same was found not vacant; therefore praying for in lieu thereof 250 acres to join land of **James Butler Sr.** on north side of **Conoochee River**. Ordered granted.<sup>134</sup> *Ditto. Item 25, above.*
27. Oct1767 – Read a petition of **Benjamin Fox** setting forth that he had had 550 acres of land granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract, having a **wife, two children and eight Negroes**; therefore praying for 100 acres in family right and 150 acres adjoining on purchase, bounding southwesterly and part easterly on lands purchased by the petitioner at a place called *Two Holes* upon **Little Ogechee**. Ordered granted.<sup>135</sup> *Ditto. Items 25 and 26, above.*
28. Aug1768 – Read a petition of **Benjamin Fox** setting forth that he had 650 acres of land granted him in family right and was desirous to obtain an additional tract, having a **wife, three children and 16 Negroes**; therefore praying for 300 acres on a branch of **Little Ogechee** to adjoin 150 acres there granted him on purchase – the land prayed for to run in an oblong. Ordered granted.<sup>136</sup> *Ditto. Family has grown by yet another child.*
29. Sep1768 – Read a petition of **Richard Fox** setting forth that he was settled in the Province, had had 100 acres granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract, having **12 Negroes**; therefore praying 200 acres on **Little Ogechee** to adjoin land at last Board ordered his brother, Benkamin Fox, and to be run in an oblong on account of the narrowness of the swamp. Ordered granted.<sup>137</sup> *Ditto, Item 23, above. Richard has doubled his number of slaves, but still appears to be unmarried.*
30. Sep1768 – Read a petition of **William Fox** setting forth that he was settled in the Province, had had 500 acres of land ordered him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract; having a **wife, two children and 10 slaves**; therefore praying 300 acres on a branch of **Little Ogechee** to adjoin a tract of land he had purchased of Francis Harris, Esq. Ordered granted.<sup>138</sup> *Ditto, Item 22, above.*
31. Mar1769 – Read a petition of **William Fox** setting forth that he had been many years in the Province, had had no land granted him and was desirous to obtain land for cultivation; therefore praying for 100 acres in St. George's Parish on Rocky Creek near or to adjoin land there ordered Joseph Dunlap. Granted.<sup>139</sup> *Probably not related to David Fox Sr.*
32. Apr1769 – Read a petition of **Richard Fox** setting forth that he had in his own right **eleven slaves** and had never had but 100 acres granted him; therefore praying for 200 acres of land to be laid out in an oblong in **St. David's Parish** on a branch of the **Buffalo Swamp** about a mile distant from land granted James Innes. Ordered granted.<sup>140</sup> *Ditto, Item 23, above. Almost doubled his number of slaves since Aug1766, but still appears to be unmarried.*
33. Apr1769 – Read a petition of **William Fox** setting forth that he had a **wife, five children and 12 slaves**, had but 800 acres of land in this Province; therefore praying for 200 acres to be laid out in a long square on a branch of **Buffalo Swamp** in **St. David's Parish** about three miles from land there petitioned for by Richard Fox. Ordered granted.<sup>141</sup> *Ditto, Item 22, above. This tract probably was in the vicinity of the tract filed by Richard Fox in Item 32, above. William's family continues to grow, now having five children.*
34. May1769 – Read a petition of **John Fox** setting forth that he had been many years in the Province, had had 400 acres granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract, having a **wife, two children and 19 Negroes**; therefore praying for 500 acres in **St. Philip's Parish** upon a branch leading out of **Conoochee River** about two miles from the said River, and half a mile from land granted Charles Mearn, and to adjoin

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<sup>133</sup> Ibid., p. 703.

<sup>134</sup> Colonial Records of the State of Georgia Vol X, Chandler, 1906, p. 48.

<sup>135</sup> Ibid., p. 309.

<sup>136</sup> Ibid., p. 547.

<sup>137</sup> Ibid., pp. 590-1.

<sup>138</sup> Ibid., p. 591.

<sup>139</sup> Ibid., p. 708.

<sup>140</sup> Ibid., pp. 740-1.

<sup>141</sup> Ibid., pp. 741-2.



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land this day petitioned for by **Henry Bourquin** – to be laid out in an oblong, the swam being very narrow. Ordered granted.<sup>142</sup> *This tract would have abutted a tract taken out by John's father-in-law. Francis Bourquin.*

35. May1769 – Read a petition of **Benjamin Fox** setting forth that he had ordered him 300 acres of land in **Christ Church Parish [Little Ogechee District]** which had been surveyed and a plan thereof returned into the Surveyor General's Office but the time was elapsed in which the grant for the same ought to have passed; therefore praying that notwithstanding the lapse of time he might be permitted to take out his Majesty's grant for the said land and that the Surveyor General might be ordered to prepare and certify a plan thereof for that purpose. Ordered granted.<sup>143</sup> *Ditto.*
36. Jun1769 – Read a petition of **John Fox** setting forth that he had ordered him at last Board 500 acres of land on a branch of the **Conoochee** which quantity was not found vacant; therefore praying for in lieu thereof 500 acres in **St. John's Parish** to adjoin land there ran out for John Mitchell and called Mitchell's cowpen. The land prayed for to be run out in an oblong the swamp being very narrow. Ordered granted.<sup>144</sup> *John Fox has requested to shift the location of his earlier grant from St. Philip's Parish to St. John's Parish near a place known as Mitchell's Cowpens.*
37. Jun1769 – Read a petition of **Jonathan Fox** setting forth that he had had 200 acres granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract, having **12 Negroes**; therefore praying for 500 acres in **St. John's Parish** near land called Mitchell's cowpen and to adjoin land this day petitioned for by **John Fox** and to be laid out in an oblong. Ordered granted.<sup>145</sup> *It would appear that Jonathan Fox and John Fox had a very close relationship, as there last three grants have been in close geographic proximity. Jonathan still appears to be unmarried at age 38.*
38. Jul1769 – Read a petition of **John Fox** setting forth that he had been many years in the Province, had had 400 acres of land granted him and was desirous of an additional tract, having a **wife, two children and 19 Negroes**; therefore praying for 800 acres in **St. David's Parish** on a branch of the **Buffalo Swamp** to adjoin land there granted John Bacon – 500 acres whereof are in lieu of the like quantity ordered him at the last Board and not found vacant – the land prayed for to be run out in an oblong. Ordered granted.<sup>146</sup> *Ditto.*
39. Jul1769 – Read a petition of **George Fox** setting forth that he had been many years in the Province, had had 200 acres of land granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract, having a **wife, two children and 10 Negroes**; therefore praying for 500 acres in two tracts, that is to say, 300 acres in **St. David's Parish** on a branch of **Buffalo Swamp** to adjoin land there granted Gideon Dowse, and also 200 acres on the south side of the Altahama to adjoin land there ordered John Raynes the latter to be laid out in an oblong. Ordered granted.<sup>147</sup> *George Fox, apparently yet another son of David Fox Sr., petitioned for land on Buffalo Swamp, same location as requested by his brothers: Jonathan, John, Richard and William.*
40. Jul1769 – Read a petition of **Richard Fox** setting forth that he had been many years in the Province, had had 300 acres granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional quantity having **17 Negroes**; therefore praying for 600 acres in two tracts, that is to say, 300 acres in **St. David's Parish** to adjoin land there laid out for Mungo Graham, deceased, and also 300 acres on a branch of the **Buffalo Swamp** in the same Parish to adjoin land this day petitioned for by **Jonathan Fox** – both tracts to be run oblong. Ordered granted.<sup>148</sup> *Ditto.*
41. Jul1769 – Read a petition of **Jonathan Fox** setting forth that he had been many years in the Province, had had 200 acres of land granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract, having **12 Negroes**; therefore praying for 500 acres in **St. David's Parish** on a branch of **Buffalo Swamp** to adjoin land there granted William Graves, and to be laid out in an oblong – in lieu of the quantity ordered him at the last Board and not found vacant. Ordered granted.<sup>149</sup> *Ditto.*
42. Nov1769 – Read a petition of **Benjamin Fox** setting forth that he had had him 100 acres of land in Christ Church Parish, which had been surveyed and a plan thereof returned into the Surveyor General's Office, but the time was elapsed in which a grant for the same should have passed; therefore praying that

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<sup>142</sup> Ibid., p. 756.

<sup>143</sup> Ibid., p. 768.

<sup>144</sup> Ibid., p. 778.

<sup>145</sup> Ibid., p. 779.

<sup>146</sup> Ibid., p. 792.

<sup>147</sup> Ibid., p. 797.

<sup>148</sup> Ibid., p. 798.

<sup>149</sup> Ibid.

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notwithstanding the lapse of time he might be permitted to take out his Majesty's grant for the said land and that the Surveyor Genral might be ordered to prepare and certify a plan thereof for that purpose. Ordered granted.<sup>150</sup> *Ditto*.

43. Oct1770 – Read a petition of Benjamin Fox setting forth that he had been long in the Province, had had only 1050 acres of land granted him and had a wife, four children and 17 slaves and was desirous to obtain more land for cultivation; therefore praying for 150 acres in St. Paul's Parish on a branch of the Little Satilla about a mile from land granted to Daniel Rain to be laid out in an oblong – the swamp being very narrow. Ordered granted.<sup>151</sup> *There appears to have been an error in the reference to St. Paul's Parish, which was situated on the upper Savannah River near Augusta. This tract may have fallen within St. Thomas' Parish.*
44. Nov1770 – Read a petition of William Fox setting forth that he had been long in the Province, had had 1000 acres granted him, and had a wife, seven children and 17 Negroes, and was desirous to obtain more land for cultivation; therefore praying for 300 acres in St. Thomas' Parish on a branch of Little Satilla joining lands granted to Thomas Maxwell. Ordered granted.<sup>152</sup> *Ditto*.
45. Nov1770 – Read a petition of John Fox setting forth that he had ordered him 500 acres of land in St. David's Parish which had been surveyed and a plan thereof retured into the Surveyor General's Office but the time was elapsed in which a grant for the same should have passed; therefore praying that notwithstanding the lapse of time, he might be permitted to take out his Majesty's grant for the said land, and that the Surveyor General might be ordered to prepare and certify a plan thereof for that purpose. Ordered granted.<sup>153</sup> *Ditto*.
46. Nov1770 – Read a petition of John and William Fox, Executors of the Last Will and Testament of David Fox [Jr.], deceased, setting forth that they had ordered them 700 acres of land in St. David's Parish which had been surveyed and a plan thereof returned into the Surveyer General's Office, but the time was elapsed in which a grant for same should have passed; therefore praying that notwithstanding the lapse of time they might be permitted to take out his Majesty's grant for the said land and that the Surveyor General might be ordered to prepare and certify a plan thereof for that purpose. Ordered granted.<sup>154</sup> *The 700 acre grant referenced in this petition as having lapsed almost certainly was in reference to the petition filed by David Fox Jr. in Jun1765 (refer to Item 18, above). As the executors of David Fox Jr.'s estate, John and William Fox were reestablishing the rights embodied in the earlier grant, even though David Fox was then deceased. Presumably the renewed grant was situated at its original location on Crooked River south of the Altamaha.*
47. Sep1771 – Read a petition of Benjamin Fox setting forth that he had been long settled in the Province, had a wife, four children and 20 slaves, and had 1200 acres granted him, ande being desirous of an additional tract for the convenience of back water, therefore praying for 150 acres of land in St. Patrick's Parish to adjoin 150 acres lately ordered him. Granted.<sup>155</sup> *Ditto*.
48. Sep1771 – Read a petition of Benjamin Fox setting forth that he had heretofore ordered him 150 acres in St. Patrick's Parish, which had been surveyed and a plan thereof returned into the Surveyor General's Office, but the time was elapsed in which a grant for the same should have passed; therefore praying that notwithstanding the lapse of time he might be permitted to take out his Majesty's grant for the said land, and that the Surveyor General might be ordered to prepare and certify a plan thereof for that purpose. Ordered granted.<sup>156</sup> *Ditto*.
49. Oct1771 – Read a petition of Jonathan Fox setting forth that he had heretofore lands granted him on his family right, but had now four slaves for whom he never had any land, and being desirous of obtaining an additional quantity of land; therefore praying for 200 acres to join land already granted him and lands of James Read Esq., Richard Waulin and William McKenzie. Ordered granted.<sup>157</sup> *The location of this grant is uncertain, but may have been in Christ Church Parish, Little Ogechee District, given its proximity to James Read, Esq. Note that James Read, Esq. was one of the executors on the LWT of John McLean.*

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<sup>150</sup> Ibid., p. 937.

<sup>151</sup> Colonial Records of the State of Georgia Vol XI, Chandler, 1906, p. 160.

<sup>152</sup> Ibid., p. 161.

<sup>153</sup> Ibid., p. 171.

<sup>154</sup> Ibid., p. 173.

<sup>155</sup> Colonial Records of the State of Georgia Vol XII, Chandler, 1906, p. 27.

<sup>156</sup> Ibid., pp. 48-9.

<sup>157</sup> Ibid., p. 62.

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This marked the last of royal grants found in Georgia believed to have been associated with David Fox Sr. and his sons. From these records it has been established that David Fox Sr. had a total of nine sons listed in their approximate order of birth as follows:

1. David Fox Jr.
2. John Fox
3. William Fox
4. George Fox

**Births Registered in St. Helena Parish:**

5. Jonathan Fox
6. Benjamin Fox
7. Thomas Fox
8. Richard Fox
9. James Fox

There are records found in South Carolina after about 1775 of a Thomas Fox, suggesting that that son of David Sr. did not follow the rest of their family into Georgia, but remained in South Carolina. Of David's sons that did settle in Georgia, Richard Fox and Jonathan Fox do not appear to have married. These grant records show the other five brothers as having married and having had children as follows:

- David Jr., married Catherine Potter and had five children: Elizabeth, John, David III, Joseph and William.
- Benjamin Fox reported a wife [unknown] and four children in 1770 petition. Per LWT (Appendix M) the children were: Benjamin Jr., Ann, Mary and Elizabeth. In his Will, Benjamin named brothers: John, George and James Fox, and brother-in-law, Joseph Raines. Presumably his wife, whoever she may have been, was born a Raines.
- William Fox, married with seven children in 1770 petition. No Will was found for William Fox, so the identity of his wife and children are not known to the author. William Fox [Sr.] was appointed a Magistrate for St. John's Parish on 2Jul1776. One of his children was probably William Fox Jr., who was recommended by John Gibbons for the office of Auditor of Accounts to Governor Martin on 14Sep1782. [N.B. This John Gibbons was almost certainly the legatee named in the LWT of John Martin, son of Joseph Gibbons and Sarah Martin]. On 29Jan1775 a child of William Fox was buried at Midway, St. John's Parish. On 1Jul1776 Joseph Fox married Susannah Stewart at Midway (very likely a son of William Fox). 30 September 1790 – Georgia Gazette (Savannah), issue 401, page 2: died at Little Ogechee, Mr. William Fox [Sr.]. On 29Jan1789 an estate settlement advertisement appeared in the Georgia Gazette for William Fox Sr. [Jr.?], deceased, with David Fox as Executor. This David Fox may well have been another son. William Fox also had a son named Richard Fox and daughter named Mary Ann, per LWT of James Fox (Appendix N)
- John Fox married Frances Bourquin and had two children: John Fox Jr. and a daughter. John Fox died sometime before 12Sep1799 per an advertisement in the Georgia Gazette as follows: "Tax Collector's Sale: That well known plantation on Little Ogechee, late the residence of John Fox, Esq., deceased,, containing 800 acres, more or less, adjoining lands of Mr. Elliott, (formerly David Fox's), the estate of William Fox, and Mr. Benedict Bourquin, about 12 miles from Savannah, tax amounting to \$125." JOHN FOX, [JR.], Planter, 9/20/1795:6/12/1797, p. 39 Henry Bourquin, friend and cousin, exr and sole heir. Wits: John Hamilton, Thomas Hogg, James White, Benedict Bourquin. Caveat by John Morel, for himself and first cousins. The other child very likely was David Fox Jr., per LWT of Richard Fox.
- George Fox reported a wife and two children in Jul1769. Nothing further was found on this family. George Fox is very likely one of the persons appearing in the Act of Attainment adopted on 4May1782.

Additionally, there are estate records suggesting that James Fox also settled in Georgia:

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- James Fox: LWT of James Fox Sr. written 25Oct1773 and proven 18Dec1773 in Georgia, transcribed copy attached in Appendix N. In his Will, James made bequests to his wife (unnamed), and two children: Mary [Ann] Fox and James Fox [Jr.]. Also, a legacy to a niece and nephew: Mary Ann Fox and Richard Fox, children of William Fox. And, finally, James appointed his brothers: William Fox and Jonathan Fox as executors; witnesses were John McMahon, Joseph Raines (Benjamin Fox's brother-in-law) and James Cook.

It should also be noted that Richard Fox made a Will dated 15Apr1771 and date proven not given. In this Will Richard Fox made bequests to his brothers: George Fox, Jonathan Fox and James Fox, and a sister, Ann Fox (perhaps Ann never married, as she would have been 40 years old in 1773). Bequests were also made to nephew: **Richard Fox, son of William Fox**; niece: **Mary Ann Fox, daughter of James Fox**; nephew: **James Fox Jr., son of James Fox**; and nephew: **David Jr., son of John Fox**. Richard appointed two brothers as executors: (1) unreadable and (2) George Fox. Witnesses were **Isaac Baillou (on List of Attainment)**, Hugh Sym and Samuel Clark. (N.B. Isaac Baillou was also a witness to the LWT of John McLean.) A transcribed copy of Richard Fox's Will is contained in Appendix O.

The John Fox, who swore the affidavit on behalf of Elizabeth Brownson Jones, was a son of David Fox Jr. and Catherine Potter. From the tenor of David Fox Jr's LWT, it would appear that all five of his children were still minors on 11Dec1766. The date of birth of any of these children is unknown to the author, but when he filed a grant petition in Jul1757, he reported having only three children. From that petition, it can be inferred that two of his children had not yet been born. The earliest record believed to pertain to an adult John Fox, the son of David Fox Jr. and Catherine Potter was a newspaper item abstracted as follows:

- 15 May 1794 – Southern Sentinel Augusta, volume 1, issue L, page 3: state of Georgia, Richmond County, by John Meade, register of probates for the county aforesaid; whereas **Elizabeth Spann and John Fox** has applied to me for letters of administration on the estate of **James Spann** late of this County, deceased.

This administration filing by Elizabeth Spann and John Fox was for the probate of the property of Elizabeth Fox's late husband, James Spann. Elizabeth Fox Spann and John Fox were siblings, and two of the five children named in the LWT of David Fox Jr. in 1766. John Fox and James Spann had been business partners, in addition to having been brothers-in-law. The author is of the opinion that John and Elizabeth Fox were the youngest of David Fox's children. This belief is predicated in large part on the LWT of their brother, Joseph Fox, a transcribed copy of which is attached in Appendix P. Joseph Fox's LWT is summarized as follows:

Chatham County, Georgia – dated 5Dec1783, proven 14Jan1784:

1. Wife, deceased, late daughter of John Stuart, Esq. of Newport: to wife's Stuart siblings: Negroes and Lot at Sunbury;
2. To brother, William, Negroes, purchased and inherited from father's estate, plus remainder of estate;
3. To sister-in-law, Mrs. Quarterman, chest of drawers;
4. To nephew, Charles Fox, son of William Fox, Little Ogechee tract, formerly father's residence, being 1/6<sup>th</sup> of said tract, bought of sister, **Mrs. Turner**;
5. William Quarterman, Thomas Gibbons and William Fox (brother), Executors.
6. Ann Gibbons Jr., Peter Dowel and Esther Gibbons, witnesses.

This Will of Joseph Fox is vitally important to establishing the identity and whereabouts of other members of David Fox Jr's. descendants. For example, the Mrs. Turner named in this Will was

the only daughter of David Fox and Catherine Potter, namely Elizabeth Fox Spann. Sometime just before the start of the Revolutionary War, Elizabeth Fox married Captain Sterling Turner of the Little Saluda area in Old Ninety-Six District. Captain Sterling Turner's small militia company, consisting of approximately 21 men, along with a smaller contingent of about 8 men commanded by Captain James Butler, were surrounded by roughly 300 Tory militia forces led by Major William Cunningham (aka "Bloody Bill") at a partially constructed log cabin (Silas Clark's) on Cloud's Creek on 17Nov1781 and were taken captive. After a brief attempt to negotiate their surrender, Maj. Cunningham ordered the immediate execution of the entire rebel company. This action became known as "Cloud's Creek Massacre", and contributed to William Cunningham earning the epithet of "Bloody Bill". Captain Sterling Turner was one of those patriots, who was executed, and believed to have been buried in a common grave along with his fellow soldiers a couple miles north of the town of Leesburg.

Since Joseph Fox's Will refers to his sister as Mrs. Turner, it can be assumed that she was still a widow in Dec1783, and had not yet married James Spann. James Spann is believed to have been a son of John Spann and Sarah Smith, probably born in North Carolina in about 1755. John Spann took out a grant for 350 acres in Colleton County in 1772, which in its memorial filing in 1775 was described as being on the Little Saluda. This area was officially designated Ninety-Six District in 1769 and remained such until the County formation act in 1800 when it became part of Edgefield County. On another plat filing in 1775 by Robert Waring, John Spann's tract was recorded as lying on Red Bank Creek. In 1788 James Spann filed a plat map for 600 acres on Red Bank Creek abutting lands of George Cox, John Garret, Dudley Pruit, Daniel Richardson and **Sterling Turner**. In 1791 James Spann took out two additional tracts: one for 190 acres on Red Bank Creek, and one for 530 acres on Dry Creek, another southerly tributary of the Little Saluda.

It is not known exactly when James Spann married Elizabeth Fox, widow of Sterling Turner, but probably around 1784/5. They may initially have lived on the Sterling Turner tract on Red Bank Creek before James Spann took out the adjoining tracts in 1788 and 1791. The author believes that James Spann and Elizabeth Fox continued to reside in the Red Bank area until James' death in 1793. It is important to note that on the 1791 plat filing by James Spann for 190 acres on Red Bank Creek, it described that tract as abutting: Young Allin, **Mrs. Fox**, James Foy, Herrings, **James Spann, Sterling Turner**, and Mrs. Wilson. The reference to an abutting tract owned by **Mrs. Fox** is a bit confusing. No other land records were found for anyone named Fox in this part of South Carolina during this time period. From the fact that Elizabeth Fox was described as "Mrs. Turner" in her brother's LWT in 1783/4, and given that Elizabeth Fox's 1<sup>st</sup> husband, Sterling Turner, is known to have been killed near Red Bank Creek in Nov1781, it is reasonable to assume that Elizabeth Fox had moved from Little Ogechee District Georgia to the Red Bank South Carolina area sometime before about 1780. Given the reference to a tract in ownership of a "Mrs. Fox", it seems very likely that this was in reference to Elizabeth Fox's mother, Catherine Fox (nee Potter).

If this Mrs. Fox was in fact the widow of David Fox Jr., then it seems likely that she had removed her family from Little Ogechee to Red Bank area sometime after her husband's death (between 1766 and say, 1776/7). Perhaps this relocation was promulgated by the outbreak of revolutionary hostilities in the Chatham County area. Many writers have reported that some Georgia families from the tidewater region took refuge in central South Carolina, particularly



after the British forces took control of Savannah. Being widowed, and still having a couple of juvenile children to protect, Catherine Potter Fox may have felt that removal to the Red Bank area was in their best interest. The Will of Joseph Fox gives the clear impression that he and his brother, William, were still living in the Chatham County area in Dec1783. The author was unable to find any records that could be clearly identified as belonging to Joseph's brother, William Fox, but it seems probable that he and his family continued to live in the Little Ogechee area until his death.

It should be noted that Joseph Fox made no mention of his brother, David Fox, in his LWT. Such omission suggests that David Fox may have predeceased Joseph. One further item of significance can be gleaned from Joseph Fox's LWT, that being the identity of William Fox's wife. Contained in another estate record abstracted as follows is a hint that one of the sons of David Fox Jr. had married Martha Gibbons:

**"ANN GIBBONS** 11/10/1799:3/4/1800, p. 46

Daus: **Esther Stallings, Martha Fox.** Grch: Martha, **Thomas Gibbons** and James Stallings; John, Stephen, and Thomas G. Miller; **Rebecca, Catherine Elizabeth, John William** and **Charles Fox.** Exrs: Son, John Barton Gibbons; grson, **Charles Fox**; Col. James Stallings. Wits: **Andrew McLean, Margaret W. McLean, Margaret Bourquin.** NOTE: Martha Gibbons Fox was married to a son of David Fox Jr. Martha Gibbons Fox's daughter, Catherine Elizabeth Fox, married Elisha Hammond. Their youngest son, Marcellus C. M. Hammond, acted as attorney on Elizabeth Brownson Jones' petition for bounty land in 1836."<sup>158</sup>

Named in this Will abstract for Ann Gibbons was a daughter, **Martha Fox**, and grandchildren (presumably the children of Martha Fox): Rebecca Fox, **Catherine Elizabeth Fox**, John William Fox and **Charles Fox**. It is the author's opinion that the **Charles Fox**, named as a grandchild of Ann Gibbons, was the same Charles Fox named as a nephew, and son of William Fox, in the LWT of Joseph Fox. Ergo, it is reasonable to conclude that William Fox, son of David Fox Jr., was the husband of Martha Gibbons, daughter of Ann Gibbons. *It is important to note that the LWT of Ann Gibbons was witnessed by Andrew McLean and Margaret W. McLean. This Andrew McLean is believed by the author to have been Andrew Cowper McLean, the son of Andrew McLean, step-son of Nathan Brownson and son of Elizabeth Jervey and John McLean. The identity of Margaret W. McLean is unknown to the author, but it should be noted that John McLean made a bequest to a daughter named Margaret, in his LWT.* Martha Fox (nee Gibbons) is also believed to have been the same person identified in the following "dead letter" notices from the Georgia Gazette abstracted as follows:

- 10 January 1797 – Columbia Museum Savannah, volume 1, issue 89, page 363: dead letters – **Miss Catherine Fox, Mrs. Martha Fox.**
- 3 April 1800 – Georgia Gazette Savannah, issue 858, page 2: dead letters – **Mrs. Martha Fox.**

The "Miss Catherine Fox" listed in the 10Jan1797 dead letter notice is believed to have been the same person as Catherine Elizabeth Fox, named in the Will abstract of Ann Gibbons, as a grandchild (and presumably the daughter of William Fox and Martha Gibbons). One further record believed to have had reference to Martha Fox is the list of tax defaulters reported in the Georgia Gazette from the Little Ogechee District on 6Sep1798 abstracted as follows:

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<sup>158</sup> <http://georgiapioneers.com/restricted/probate/chatham/chathamwills.pdf>, accessed 28Mar2015.

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- 6 September 1798 – Georgia Gazette Savannah, page 1: tax defaulters – little Ogechee district. John Batchelor, Anthony Emmanuel, Benjamin Butler, estate of Baillou, Thomas Dorrell; **Martha Fox**, and two men living at her place; Mrs. Benjamin Fox, John Fox's estate,... **Charles Jones**, John L Kittles.

From the foregoing Georgia Gazette items it would appear that Martha Fox was widowed sometime prior to Jan1797. Also, from these records it can be deduced that Martha Fox's family continued to reside in the Chatham County area until after Apr1800. However, on 3Jan1803 Martha Fox wrote her LWT (transcribed copy contained in Appendix Q) at Edgefield District, SC, so sometime between about Apr1800 and Jan1803 Martha Fox had moved with her family to Edgefield. In her Will, Martha made bequests to all four of her children, and named son, Charles Fox, and son-in-law, William Young as executors. It is not known exactly where in Edgefield District Martha Fox may have relocated, but it seems likely that it would have been near her in-laws at Red Bank. By 1800 Martha Gibbons Fox's parents were both dead, and her husband's kinsmen in the Little Ogechee area were also deceased. It seems probable that she would have wanted to spend the remainder of her years near her husband's siblings. It is also possible that Martha may have been drawn to Edgefield by the presence of her sister, Esther, who was married to Colonel James Stallings. Col. Stallings, along with his brother, Ezekial Stallings and George Hunt, was in business as a merchant and factor in Augusta, GA by as early as about 1787 under the name of *Hunt, Stallings and Company*. See following legal notice from the Augusta Gazette:

"Aug. 23, 1790. London England. r/Dec. 9th 1793. "in the 32nd year of the reign of King George the Third, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, GEORGE HUNT, **JAMES STALLINGS** and EZEKIEL STALLINGS, merchants and co-partners at this time in the City of London, goes on to state that "for some years past the firm of Hunt, Stallings and Co., carried on in Georgia the business of merchants. During their trading they became indebted to the firm of Chamberlain, Burch and Charles Ouvray for £12,000. so had assigned to Burch and Ouvray, all goods, chattels, debts, book accounts, personal estate, etc. except the wearing apparel of themselves and their families."

Another daughter of Martha Gibbons Fox named Catherine Elizabeth married three times: (1) William Young, (2) Littleberry Clanton and (3) Charles T. Beale. Martha's other son, Joseph William (named in Martha's LWT), died young as evidenced by the following newspaper item:

6 September 1811 – Augusta Chronicle: "died on Monday morning last, 30th ult. on the ninth day of his illness, at the residence of **Mr. Littleberry Clanton**, in Columbia County, **Mr. Joseph W Fox**, in the 22nd year of his age; he has left a large family connection, but only one brother and sister to lament the loss of a worthy and affectionate brother."

Elizabeth Fox, daughter of David Fox Jr., is believed to have married James Spann in Edgefield District around 1784. Following is a brief genealogical sketch of Elizabeth and her daughter, Catherine Elizabeth:

"The wife of James Spann was a daughter of David Fox Junior and his wife Catherine Potter (daughter of Robert Potter), who moved from St. Helena Parish (Beaufort County), South Carolina to Georgia prior to or about 1755 and settled on little Ogechee River in Christ church parish where he died in 1766/7. She (Elizabeth Fox) was born in 1758 and died in 1827, being buried in a cemetery in Augusta Georgia. She married (1) Capt. Sterling Turner, (2) Capt. James Spann, and (3) Ellington Clark. It is evident that James Spann died intestate; but the will, dated 12 October 1827 and proved 3 November 1827, of his wife (then Elizabeth Clark) is recorded in will book C, pages 51 and 52, at Edgefield Courthouse, South Carolina. In this will she names her Spann children: Catherine Fox, James, Rebecca Frances, and Eliza Ann.

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Catherine Fox (born 1783; died 1864) – A marriage notice in the Charleston Courier, issue of 1 August 1806, reads as follows – – – “married in Columbia on Tuesday evening the 25th instant by Rev. Dr. Maxey, Mr. Elisha Hammond, professor of the South Carolina College, to Miss Catherine Fox Spann.” By her mother's Will she received a bequest of four Negro slaves and their future increase, and one-half of all the lands (owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Clark) on Red Bank Creek (waters of Little Saluda River).

Elisha Hammond, husband of Catherine Fox Spann, was born in New Bedford Connecticut in 1776. He moved to South Carolina in 1803. He died at Macon Georgia on 9 July 1829. An obituary printed in the Macon Telegraph, issue of July 11, 1829 states that “he was educated at Dartmouth College. He emigrated to South Carolina and took charge of Mount Bethel Academy (in Newberry County), and from thence went to the honorable station a Professor of Languages in the South Carolina College. He later moved to Augusta Georgia and after a short residence there, in June 1828, accepted an invitation to take charge of the Macon Academy. He left a widow and four children. The names of the children of Elisha and Catherine Fox Hammond, together with some of their descendents are” page 58<sup>159</sup>

The source of the foregoing genealogical sketch is unknown to the author, but is believed to be reliably accurate. After the death of her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband, James Spann in 1793, Elizabeth Fox is believed to have married a Mr. Clarke. Her LWT (transcribed copy in Appendix R) was written at Augusta, GA on 12Oct1827, but of Edgefield District. In her Will, Elizabeth was identified as Elizabeth Clark, and she made bequests to four children: James Spann [Jr.], Catherine F. [Fox] Hammond (wife of Elisha Hammond), Eliza Ann Whitner (wife of Benjamin Franklin Whitner), and Rebecca Frances (deceased wife of Abraham Giles Dozier, also deceased). Also named was a granddaughter, Amanda Whitner, daughter of Eliza Ann Spann and Benjamin Franklin Whitner. Elizabeth Clark made mention of a tract of land at Red Bank, and a town lot in Columbia, SC. Elizabeth named as her executors: Benjamin F. Whitner and John C. McGehee (husband of Charlotte Arabella Dozier, daughter of Rebecca Frances Spann and Abraham Giles Dozier). Witnesses to this Will were: **Eliza Jones**, George W Mallory, Ayres S Turpen.

The Eliza Jones who witnessed the LWT of Elizabeth Clark [nee Fox] is believed by the author to have been Betsey [Elizabeth] Brownson, the widow of Charles Jones. Although the author's research thus far has failed to establish any direct connections between John Fox and the Nathan Brownson family, aside from ties in common to the Little Ogechee District, the witnessing of the LWT of John Fox's sister's LWT by Elizabeth Brownson Jones would seem to suggest a close association between the Brownson and Fox families. Further evidence of such close association may be observed in the form of Marcellus C. M. Hammond, the person appointed by Elizabeth Jones in her petition to the Department of War in 1836, to act as her lawful attorney. Marcellus Claudius Marcus



Figure 7-21  
Portrait of Catherine Fox (nee Spann)  
Hammond

<sup>159</sup> Source uncertain. Taken from an Ancestry.com family tree of the “Horne” family, owned by “marjorehorne250”.

Hammond was the youngest son of Catherine Fox Spann (daughter of Elizabeth Fox and James Spann) and Elisha Hammond. Again, here is evidence of a fairly close association between Elizabeth Brownson Jones and a member of John Fox's family, albeit two generations removed. N.B.: James Henry Hammond, elder son of Catherine Fox Spann and Elisha Hammond, and brother of Marcellus C. M. Hammond became a senator and Governor of South Carolina. James Henry Hammond and Marcellus C. M. Hammond acquired plantations and settled in their later lives near Hamburg, Aiken County, SC about five miles downriver from Augusta at Beech Island. As will be noted later, John Fox also owned a plantation at Hamburg. The Hamburg settlement was directly across the Savannah River from Augusta, and was formerly part of the lands settled upon the Chickasaw Indians around 1753. John Fox would later acquire part of these former Chicksaw holdings.

Presumably, Elizabeth's brother, John Fox, had also relocated to the Red Bank area with his mother and sister, as he is on record as having entered into a trading/mercantile partnership with his brother-in-law, James Spann, as evidenced by the following legal notice run in the Augusta Chronicle in Oct1794.

"11 October 1794 – Augusta Chronicle, page 4: notification. There being an absolute necessity for settling without delay, the affairs of the concern of **James Spann and Company**; all persons indebted to the said concern are requested to make speedy payments as possible; and those having demands against the concern, or the estate of the late James Spann, deceased, are desired to make the known. Accounts do them, which remain unsettled after 1 September next, will indiscriminately be placed in the hands of an attorney, to be put in suit the ensuing return day. In order to close the concern, their remaining stock of dry goods, consisting of a general and elegant assortment of useful and fashionable articles, together with a general assortment of liquors and groceries, are offered for sale at the most reduced prices, for cash or produce down. Apply at the store in Broad Street, to **John Fox**. Augusta, 28 July 1794."

John Fox appears to have carried on mercantile trade from his store in Broad Street until the end of his life as evidenced by the following newspaper items:

1. 15 May 1794 – Southern Sentinel Augusta, volume 1, issue L, page 3: state of Georgia, Richmond County, by John Meade, register of probates for the county aforesaid; whereas **Elizabeth Spann and John Fox** has applied to me for letters of administration on the estate of James Spann late of this County, deceased.
2. 6 September 1794 – Augusta Chronicle, volume 8, issue 413, page 4: dry goods, consisting of a general and elegant assortment of useful and fashionable articles, together with a general assortment of liquors and groceries, are offered for sale at the most reduced prices, for cash or produce down. Apply at the store in Broughton Street to **John Fox**.
3. 18Apr1795 – Augusta Chronicle (Augusta) p. 4.: "Liquors and Groceries – The subscriber [Joseph Hutcheson] has just received and now opening for sale at the southwest corner of **Broad and Washington** Streets opposite Mr. Blash's and adjoining the premises occupied by **Mr. Fox**..."
4. 25 April 1795 – Augusta Chronicle, page 2:4 dollars reward. Strayed or stolen from Augusta, eight days sense, a bright may gelding, about 15 hands high, then made and in rather low condition, has a small start in his for head, is marked with the saddle and has some white on one of his feet – – the above reward will be paid on his delivery to the subscriber **John Fox**.
5. 17 September 1796 – Augusta Chronicle, page 1: on consignment just received from New York, and for sale by the box, or dozen, on the prices current in that city, a consignment of shoes, saddles, and cards. They may be seen, and the terms made known by applying at the store of Messrs. **John Fox and Company** to James Sanders Walker.
6. 1 February 1798 – Southern Sentinel Augusta, volume 5, issue 243, page 3: Sheriff's sale. Will be sold on the first Tuesday in February next, at the market house in the town of Augusta, all that lot and improvements thereon, at present occupied by **John Fox**, and known by lot number 39: taken under execution as the property of Sampson Simmons, at the suit of Hyam Solomon... James Fox SRC



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7. 25Dec1799, Augusta Chronicle: \$50 Reward – Lost or stolen from a wagon on the road between Savannah and Augusta, about eight days hence, a small box... **John Fox**
8. 24Oct1801, Augusta Chronicle: A hint was given some time ago to the Corporation of this City respecting the danger to be apprehended from permitting kilns to dry lumber to be made in the streets of Augusta – The alarm of yesterday, from a kiln catching fire within the enclosure of **Mr. John Fox**...
9. 20Oct1802, Augusta Chronicle: 143 acres of land, more or less, well improved, lying in Hancock County, on the waters of Beaverdam, adjoining Joseph Turner, etc., whereon lives Henry Dixon; taken as his property, to satisfy an execution in favor of **John Fox**, surviving copartner of **James Spann and Company**.
10. 23Nov1805, Augusta Chronicle: The subscriber, has just received, a general assortment of goods; imported in the ships *Union* and *Brunswick* from Liverpool. Calculated principally for supplying country stores – which will be disposed of something under the usual rates by the piece of packages, for prompt payment in cash of produce. **John Fox**.
11. 30Sep1818, Augusta Chronicle: 948 acres of land lying on the Stamp Branch, within 2 miles of Augusta, adjoining land belonging to James Miera, **John Fox**, M. C. Leavensworth...
12. 22Jan1822, Augusta Chronicle: To Rent – and possession immediately given, the tenement in **Broad Street** formerly occupied by Mr. James Anderson. For terms, apply to **John Fox or Dr. Spann**. *Note that John Fox appears to have enjoined in business with his nephew, Dr. James Spann (Jr.) or they were united through the estate of James Spann Sr. The referenced James Anderson may have been either the father or brother of Dr. James Spann's wife, Elizabeth Spann (nee Anderson).*
13. 7Sep1822, Augusta Chronicle: Sheriff's Sale: On the first Tuesday in November next, at the Market House in the City of Augusta, at the usual hours, will be sold, two negroes, Ned, a man, and Sylvia, a girl. Levied on under an execution on the foreclosure of a mortgage, **John Fox vs. James Spann**...
14. 28Aug1830, Augusta Chronicle, page 1: "\$10 Reward – Will be paid for the delivery of an iron-grey mare mule, which was stolen from the plantation of **Mr. John Fox**, near **Hamburg** on Monday night the 26<sup>th</sup> instant..."

Apparently there was a long-running dispute over the settlement of the estate of James Spann Sr. involving his business association with his brother-in-law, John Fox, as evidenced by the following item from the LWT of Elizabeth Anderson Spann, widow of James Spann Jr.:

15. "And should I survive the final decision of the suit now pending in the Superior Court of Richmond County Georgia between the administrator of **James Spann Sr.** and the executors of **John Fox**, deceased and therefore receive or become entitled to any sum of money, then I give and bequeath unto the said **John C Magee** all the said money received or due to me, in trust for my said four grandchildren, to wit: **Alfred, Elizabeth, Mary and Catherine** to be equally divided among them or the survivors and their respective shares with the interest thereon to be paid over to each of them as before on coming of age or marrying;"<sup>160</sup>  
*This Will was written by Elizabeth Anderson Spann, widow of Dr. James Spann Jr. on 4Jan1842. James Spann Sr. died in 1793 and John Fox died in 1837. From this extract from Elizabeth Spann's LWT, it seems clear that a lawsuit settlement was still pending emanating from a dispute involving the estates of James Spann Sr. and John Fox.*

John Fox was granted several tracts of land in Edgefield District abstracted as follows:

16. Date: 7/27/1797 - Description: **FOX, JOHN**, PLAT FOR 500 ACRES NEAR **DEER SAVANNAH, ORANGEBURGH DISTRICT**, SURVEYED BY CHARLES BANKS FOR THOMAS STILL ON DECEMBER 1, 1796. Names indexed: BANKS, CHARLES; FOX, JOHN; RANDALL, JOHN; STILL, THOMAS Locations: ORANGEBURG DISTRICT; SAVANNAH RIVER  
*In early grants dating around 1790's Deer Savannah is associated with Shaw's Creek and the now defunct Winton County. The author believes that this early grant to John Fox was situated on a tributary to Shaw Creek in an area that falls within present day Aiken County. The basis for this belief is in part predicated on the later filings by John Fox on Chavous Creek, which is tributary to Shaw Creek and South Edisto River drainage.*

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<sup>160</sup> Last Will and Testament of Elizabeth (neeAnderson) Spann, transcript contained in Appendix O.



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17. Date: 11/20/1806 - Description: **FOX, JOHN**, PETITION ASKING THE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT HIS CLAIM TO A TRACT OF LAND IN **EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**, FORMERLY SOLD BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF CONFISCATED ESTATES. (2 PAGES) Names indexed: FOX, JOHN; LAMAR, THOMAS; LEVINSWORTH, MELINES C.; PICKENS, ANDREW Locations: EDGEFIELD DISTRICT
18. Date: 12/2/1806 - Description: COMMITTEE REPORT AND ATTACHED PETITION OF **JOHN FOX**, RESPECTING A COURT SUIT INVOLVING HIS RIGHT TO CERTAIN LANDS CONFISCATED FROM **THE CHICKASAW INDIANS**. (2 PAGES) Names indexed: COLHOUN, JOHN EWING; FOX, JOHN; LAMAR, THOMAS; LEAVENSWORTH, M. C.; PICKENS, ANDREW; WARING, THOMAS Locations: EDGEFIELD DISTRICT
- This and the preceeding item are believed to be connected to the same tract of land. The location of this tract is uncertain, but since it appears to involve land formerly in possession of the Chicasaw Indians, it very likely was situated in present day Aiken County, opposite the City of Augusta. In the 1740's a small band of Chicasaw Indians were granted lands along the north bank of the Savannah River opposite the new fort erected at Augusta. Over the next couple of decades those lands were swapped by the Chicasaw to various European settlers, including John McQueen, John Joaquim Zubly, Lachlan McGillivray, etal. John McQueen legitimized his claim by filing a grant for 3000 on Horse Creek in Apr1757. This John McQueen was either the father, or brother of Alexander McQueen from whom Galen Brownson purchased part of his father's lands on Black Creek in 1789. Disputes over the right of these Indians to trade or sell their lands continued to fester for many years. It would appear that John Fox had become embroiled in this dispute when he acquired a part of this old royal grant to the Chicasaw, probably located along Horse Creek between Beech Island and North Augusta.*
19. Date: 9/8/1811 - Description: **LAMAR, THOMAS G.** AND OTHERS, PLAT FOR 90.25 ACRES ON **BIG HORSE CREEK, EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**, SURVEYED BY **LEROY HAMMOND, JR.** Names indexed: CARTER, JOHN; **FOX, JOHN**; HAMMOND, LEROY JR.; LAMAR, ANN; LAMAR, SARAH; LAMAR, THOMAS G.; LEVINSWORTH, M. C.; ROUNDTREE, JESSE Locations: BIG HORSE CREEK; EDGEFIELD DISTRICT; SAVANNAH RIVER
- It was probably in the vicinity of this tract along Big Horse Creek that John Fox had acquired the tract which became involved with confiscated Chicasaw Indian lands. This tract may have been the property that was identified as John Fox's Hamburg Plantation, sold by his executors in 1838/9. N.B. Leroy Hammond Jr. was also known as Col. Leroy Hammond, Revolutionary War hero and cousin of Col. Samuel Hammond who filed the affidavit on behalf of Elizabeth Brownson Jones. Thomas G. Lamar was a first cousin of Harmong Lamar, who married Martha Ann Young, believed to have been a daughter of Col. William Young and Catherine Elizabeth Fox, daughter of Martha Gibbons and William Fox.*
20. Date: 12/13/1813 - Description: **BALLENTINE, HUGH**, PLAT FOR 9.5 ACRES ON **BURKHALTERS CREEK, EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**, SURVEYED BY ROBERT LANG. Names indexed: BALLENTINE, HUGH; FERRELL, EPHRAIM; **FOX, JOHN**; JOHNSON, JOHN; LANG, ROBERT; MURPHY Locations: BURKHALTERS CREEK; EDGEFIELD DISTRICT
- Burkhalters Creek was a tributary of Horse Creek, probably not very far upstream from the community of Hamburg. Burkhalters Creek is believed to have received its name from an early Burkhalter settler descended from Michael Burghalter, a Swiss immigrant, who settled at the village of Hampstead in Christ Church Parish, GA near Savannah.*
21. Date: 4/11/1820 - Description: **FOX, JOHN**, PLAT FOR 919 ACRES ON **CHAVERS CREEK, EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**, SURVEYED BY **JAMES SPANN**. Names indexed: CARTER, JOHN; FOX, JOHN; FUDGE; HOWARD, JOHN; SAMUELS, ROBERT; SPANN, JAMES Locations: **CHAVOUS CREEK**; EDGEFIELD DISTRICT; SAVANNAH RIVER
- This is the first of several plat maps filed by John Fox for parcels in an area that later became Aiken County. Note that James Spann Jr. surveyed these plats for John Fox. James Span Jr., son of Elizabeth Fox and James Spann Sr. was a merchant, medical doctor and land surveyor. This tract on Chavous Creek was located on a tributary of Shaw Creek, tributary of South Edisto River, about seven miles southeast of the town of Aiken.*
22. Date: 4/11/1820 - Description: **FOX, JOHN**, PLAT FOR 764 ACRES ON **JERNAKINS BRANCH, EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**, SURVEYED BY **JAMES SPANN**. Names indexed: FOX, JOHN; SAMUELS, ROBERT; SAMUELS, WALKER; SPANN, JAMES Locations: **CHAVOUS CREEK**; EDGEFIELD DISTRICT; JERNIGAN CREEK; SAVANNAH RIVER
- Ditto. The location of Jernakin or Jernigans Creek is not known with certainty.*

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23. Date: 4/11/1820 - Description: **FOX, JOHN**, PLAT FOR 979 ACRES ON **CHAVERS CREEK**, **EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**, SURVEYED BY **JAMES SPANN**. Names indexed: BALENTINE, HUGH; BOOTH, JAMES; BREITHAUP, COL.; FOX, JOHN; MARBERRY, THOMAS; MURPHY, MRS.; SPANN, JAMES Locations: **CHAVOUS CREEK**; **EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**; SAVANNAH RIVER  
*Ditto, Item 21, above.*
24. Date: 4/11/1820 - Description: **FOX, JOHN**, PLAT FOR 719 ACRES ON **BUCKHALTERS CREEK**, **EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**, SURVEYED BY **JAMES SPANN**. Names indexed: BREITHAUP, COL.; FOX, JOHN; MARBERRY, THOMAS; NOBLE, LEWIS; RYAN, JOHN; SPANN, JAMES Locations: **BUCKHALTERS CREEK**; **EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**; SAVANNAH RIVER  
*Ditto, Item 20, above.*
25. Date: 4/18/1820 - Description: **FOX, JOHN**, PLAT FOR 990 ACRES ON **CHAVERS CREEK**, **EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**, SURVEYED BY **JAMES SPANN**. Names indexed: BARNS, MRS.; BARTLETT, RICHARDSON; BOOTH, JAMES; FOX, JOHN; HOWARD, JOHN; MARBERRY, THOMAS; SPANN, JAMES Locations: **CHAVOUS CREEK**; **EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**; SAVANNAH RIVER  
*Ditto, Items 21 and 23, above.*
26. Date: 10/18/1833 - Description: **FOX, JOHN**, PLAT FOR 1,012 ACRES ON BRANCHES OF **HORSE CREEK**, **EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**, SURVEYED BY THOMAS ANDERSON. Names indexed: ANDERSON, THOMAS; BARTLETT; FOX, JOHN; HOWARD, WILLIAM S.; JOHNSTON, MORRIS Locations: **EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**; **HORSE CREEK**; **SAVANNAH RIVER**  
*This tract very likely as on Horse Creek upstream of the town of Hamburg a few miles.*
27. Date: 1/18/1834 - Description: **FOX, JOHN**, PLAT FOR 706 ACRES ON **SAVANNAH RIVER**, **EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**, SURVEYED BY THOMAS ANDERSON. Names indexed: ANDERSON, THOMAS; BROOKS; CARTER, MRS.; COVINGTON, J. B.; FOX, JOHN; **HAMBURG** Locations: **AUGUSTA, GA.**; **EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**; GEORGIA; SAVANNAH RIVER  
*It would appear that this tract was in the immediate vicinity of the town of Hamburg.*
28. Date: 9/8/1834 - Description: **FOX, JOHN**, PLAT FOR 587 ACRES ON **BOGGY GUT**, **BARNWELL DISTRICT**, SURVEYED BY WILLIAM BURCKHALTER. Names indexed: BLACKMAN, BENNET; **BURCKHALTER, WILLIAM**; FOX, JOHN; GEORGE, JOHN; MARTIN, TOLIVER; STINGFELLOW, HENRY Locations: **BARNWELL DISTRICT**; **BOGGY GUT BRANCH**; SAVANNAH RIVER; UPPER THREE RUNS  
*It is not certain that this filing was by the subject John Fox, but very likely. This tract was considerably removed from all of the other filings believed to have been by John Fox, being along Three Runs Creek in Barnwell District, about 15 miles southeast of Beech Island.*

In addition to land related records, there was also the following filing which involved John Fox:

29. Date: 1801 - Description: PROPRIETORS OF HAMMONDS, CAMPBELLS AND PICKENS WARE HOUSES AND OTHERS, PETITION ASKING THAT EITHER THE PRICE OF STORAGE FOR TOBACCO BE RAISED, OR THAT COMMISSIONERS BE APPOINTED BY THE STATE TO MAINTAIN SAID WARE HOUSE. (4 PAGES) Names indexed: **FOX, JOHN**; **GARRET, WILLIAM**; **HAMMOND, LEROY**; SANDIDGE, DAVID Locations: **EDGEFIELD DISTRICT**

Prior to the establishment of Hamburg in about 1825, there was a community known as Campbelltown at that same general location. Campbelltown was the site of a major shipment point for Tobacco grown in the Edgefield District. Tobacco warehouses were built along the north bank of the Savannah River, from which location the tobacco was packed into hogsheads for transport down the river on bateauxs to the port at Savannah. Apparently, Leroy Hammond Jr. and his kinsman, William Garrett, along with John Fox owned warehouse facilities at Campbelltown in 1801.

Nothing was found in the records to suggest that John Fox ever married, or had any children. He very likely was born sometime between 1757 and 1766, say about 1760, at Little Ogechee. He

would have been about 35 years old when Nathan Brownson died, yet John Fox's affidavit states that "he was well acquainted with Dr. Nathan Brownson". The author believes that John's mother moved with her children: John and Elizabeth to the Red Bank area in about 1775, while John Fox was about 15 years old. It is difficult to determine from these facts just how and when John Fox may have become acquainted with Nathan Brownson. It is clear that John Fox was established in his mercantile business with his brother-in-law, James Spann, by about 1785, so it is very possible that John Fox could have become acquainted with Nathan Brownson at Augusta, while Nathan was serving in the statehouse. John may also have first become acquainted with Nathan Brownson and his family at Little Ogechee.

After Nathan Brownson's death in 1796, John Fox would have had ample opportunity to have continued his acquaintance with Elizabeth Brownson Jones at and near Augusta. The fact that Elizabeth Jones appears to have witnessed the LWT of John Fox's sister, Elizabeth Clark in 1827 suggests a fairly close connection between these families.

John Fox signed a Will dated 31Jan1837 at Augusta, which was proven 22Feb1837 (transcribed copy attached in Appendix S). His Will was quite lengthy and contained numerous bequests to various family members, friends and institutions, summarized as follows:

1. \$1000 to niece, Catherine Beale, wife of Charles T. Beale of Columbia;
2. \$1000 to Mrs. Charlotte McGehee, wife of John C. McGehee of Florida;
3. \$1000 to Albert Dozier, brother of Charlotte McGehee;
4. \$1000 Rebecca Dozier, sister of Albert Dozier;
5. \$2000 to Norman Wallace in trust for Anne E. Murray, daughter of Peter Edwards, deceased, of New Providence [Bahama's];
6. \$2000 to Norman Wallace in trust for Lydia Edwards, daughter of Peter Edwards, deceased, of New Providence [Bahama's];
7. \$500 to John Young of Alabama, son of Col. William Young, deceased;
8. \$500 to a trustee for Mrs. Caroline Patterson (formerly Caroline Young);
9. \$500 to First Presbyterian Church of Augusta;
10. \$5000 to Episcopal Church of Savannah;
11. \$10,000 to City of Augusta;
12. \$10,000 in trust of James Terry of Edgefield District for an annuity to be paid to Dr. James Spann, provided that Dr. Spann does not make any claim against John Fox estate;
13. \$3000 to Antoine Pisquet;
14. \$2000 to Amory Sibley of Augusta in trust for Augusta Bexley, adopted son of Anne Bexley;
15. \$100 to John Fox Brochon, son of Mr. D. Brochon of Augusta;
16. \$500 to treasurer of the Augusta Trust Society;
17. 5<sup>th</sup> part of residue to American Bible Society;
18. 5<sup>th</sup> part of residue to American Education Society;
19. 5<sup>th</sup> part of residue to American Board of Commissions for Foreign Missions;
20. 5<sup>th</sup> part to Augusta Free School Society and;
21. 5<sup>th</sup> part of residue to Domestic Missionary Society of Georgia.

Peter Bermoch, Antoine Pisquet and Henry H. Cummings were nominated as executors, and the Will was witnessed by Garrett Lawrence, William Glendenning, and Lewis Alexander Dugas. Presumably John Fox died in the first couple of weeks in Feb1837 at Augusta. No obituary or death announcement could be located, nor is it known where John Fox was buried. The first four legatees are known to have been kinsmen of John Fox, but there was no mention of a wife or any children. From the size and number of bequests made in his Will it is obvious that John Fox had been extremely successful in his business life, and gave generously of his fortune at the end. The

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bequest of \$10,000 in trust to James Terry for an annuity to Dr. James Spann is a clear attempt by John Fox to counter any claims resulting from the estate of James Spann Sr.

The magnitude and nature of John Fox's wealth can be seen on the following estate sales:

Exectutor's Sale, On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November, and 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1837.

By W.E. and J.B. Jackson: Will be sold, on Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November next, at the Plantation of the late John Fox, in Barnwell District, S.C. near Aiken (a part of the Plantation being included within the corporate limits of the town). About 3,200 acres of land: of which, about 2,300 make up the said plantation, known as Little Deer Savannah, and about 900 acres lie in one tract, distant about a mile from Aiken.

Also: At the same time and place, all the personal property, at said plantation belonging to the estate of the deceased, except the slaves. In the property to be sold, will be included a stock of cattle and hogs, and the crop of corn and fodder.

Also: On Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> day of November next, will be sold at the Greenwich Plantation, of said deceased, adjoining the town of Hamburg, about 700 acres of land; of which a part lies on the Savannah River, and is of excellent quality. A portion of the land lies within the limits of Hamburg, and will be divided into small lots.

Also: At the same time and place, the Brickyard and appurtenances, situated near the foot of the Hamburg Bridge and all the personal property of said estate, excepting the slaves, which may be on or about said plantation: consisting of horses, mules, black cattle, plantation tools and corn and fodder.

Also: At the Chester Plantation, of said John Fox, deceased, in Edgefield District, on the road from Hamburg to the Court House [at Edgefield], about 14 miles from the former [Hamburg], and 9 miles from the latter place, will be sold on Friday, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December next., *(based on this description, this plantation would have been on the head waters of Horse Creek.)*

Also: At the same time and place, the greater part of the stock of horses, mules, black cattle corn and fodder, and plantation tools, and other personal property of the estate, the slaves and cotton crop excepted, which may be on said plantation. Peter Bennoch, Antoine Pisquet and Henry H. Cumming, Executors of the Will of John Fox, deceased.

Sales at each place, will commence about 11 a.m. and be continued from day to day until completed. Terms made known at the times and places of sale. The lands in all cases, will, as far as practicable, be so divided as to suit the convenience of purchasers: and possession will be given on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January next, or earlier, if possible.

1. The Barnwell Plantation approaches within less than a mile of the inclined plane of Aiken, and a part of it is well timbered.
2. The Greenwich Plantation adjoins the town of Hamburg, has a front of about half a mile on the Savannah River, opposite the lower part of Augusta, has two good mill sites, and a portion of the land is very fertile.
3. The Chester Plantation is on the direct mail road from Hamburg to Edgefield Court House. A part of the land is of the best oak and hickory. There are on the plantation, besides other conveniences, a good grist mill, a cotton gin, both moved by water, and an excellent unoccupied site for a mill.

Persons desiring information relative to the property, will please apply to Mr. Andrew [Cowper] McLean at Hamburg, to the managers on the plantations, or to the undersigned in Augusta Georgia. Peter Bennoch, Antoine Pesquet and Henry H. Cumming, Executors. *The identity of this Andrew McLean is uncertain, but may well have been Andrew Cowper McLean, grandson (by marriage) of Nathan Brownson and Elizabeth Jervey McLean. Andrew Cowper McLean is reported to have married Mary Hall. Many genealogical researchers identify Mary Hall's father as having been a Nathaniel Hall. The author is uncertain of any connection, but it is worth noting that a Nathaniel Hall was married to Ann Gibbons, daughter of Joseph Gibbons and Hannah Martin. There is much uncertainty surrounding the identity of Mary Hall's ancestry, but it seems possible that she may have been a kinsman of Martha Gibbons, wife of William Fox, the brother of John Fox.*

22Feb1838, Daily Constitution: Executor's Sale: Will be sold on Tuesday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of February next, at Marchmont, the late residence of John Fox, deceased: about 60 slaves, belonging to the estate of said deceased.

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Also: All the household and kitchen furniture at said residence, two mules, and one horse, a few head of cattle and hogs, two four-wheeled carriages with harness, two small wagons with gear, a lot of carpenters and plantation tools, a small lot of books, and a gold watch and trinkets.

Also: The *late dwelling of the deceased*, the garden grounds, and a body of pine land attached to the same, containing in all about 150 acres. The garden is tastefully planned and has long been considered the handsomest of the kind in this section of the country. Persons wishing to purchase are invited to visit the premises and examine for themselves.

Also: About 137 acres of wood land, lying south east of the last described.

Also: A small farm, containing about 110 acres, one mile from *Marchmont*, known as *Bronson Place*, lying on both sides of *Rae's Creek*, on the premises is a small grist mill now in operation, and a dwelling house and the necessary out-buildings. On this place are several never failing springs of pure water. (*very possibly this was the former Augusta residence of Dr. Nathan Brownson*)

Also: Another smaller farm, containing about 23 acres, adjoining lands of Dill and Skinner, on which there is a small dwelling.

Also: About 170 acres of wood land adjoining the two places last mentioned. The wood land will be divided as far as practicable to suit purchasers. The sale will commence as half-past 10 a.m. Peter Bennoch, Antoine Picquet and Henry H. Cumming, Executors. 27Jan1838.

23Nov1837, Daily Constitution, Augusta – Executor's Sale – Personal Property, 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, and Land, 2ndJan1838: Will be sold the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, next, at the *Murray Mill Plantation* of the late *John Fox*, deceased, about 8 miles from *Augusta*. The entire stock of horses, mules, cattle, hogs and plantation tools belonging to the same. Also, the crop of fodder and corn, and 69,000 board feet of sawed lumber, of different kinds; and all other personal property belonging to the deceased, on and about the plantation, except the slaves; and: On the first Tuesday in January next, at the *Market House*, in the City, between *six and seven thousand acres of pine land*, making up the said plantation; on which there are two good mill sites and a *saw mill now in full operation*. Possession given immediately after the sale. The land will, as far as practicable, be so divided as to suit the convenience of purchasers. Terms made known at the time and place of sale. Peter Bennoch, Antoine Pisquet, Henry H. Cumming.

In addition to the relatively large and diverse plantation holdings of John Fox, he also owned one of the finest homes in Augusta of that time period, which he fashioned as *Marchmont*. Just one mile distant from *Marchmont* on *Rae's Creek*, John Fox had acquired a 110 acre farm known as *Bronson Place*. It seems highly probable to the author that *Bronson Place* had formerly been the residence of Nathan Brownson while attending sessions at the statehouse. If that were true, then it seems possible that it was this close living proximity that may have been the channel through which these families became acquainted. Nathan Brownson appears to have died intestate, so it is possible that John Fox purchased the *Bronson Place* at auction at the settlement of Nathan Brownson's estate.

This concludes the investigation and analysis of the Fox family.

### *Colonel Samuel Hammond*

The other affidavit filed in 1836 in behalf of Elizabeth Brownson Jones was that of Colonel Samuel Hammond. Although the general gist of Samuel Hammond's affidavit has already been discussed earlier in this chapter, the author feels it may be worthwhile to discuss this affidavit and its connections in greater detail. First, it should be noted that Samuel Hammond was a 1<sup>st</sup> cousin of Col. Leroy Hammond, who lived most of his life in Edgefield District and made his home near Hamburg. In his affidavit, Samuel Hammond made mention that he and General Elbert had spent summers with the Brownson family on St. Catherine's Island. By way of



clarification, General Elbert was Major General Samuel Elbert (1740-1788), son of Rev. William Elbert and Sarah Greenfield. Col. Samuel Hammond is reported to have married Rebecca Elbert Rae, widow of Robert Rae, at Savannah in about 1783. Rebecca Elbert was the sister of General Samuel Elbert. So, General Elbert and Samuel Hammond were brothers-in-law. To further complicate the familial kinships, General Elbert was married to Elizabeth Rae, a daughter of John Rae [older brother of Robert Rae]. And, yet another tangled root was the marriage of Isabella Rae, sister of Elizabeth Rae, with Joseph Habersham. Habersham, Hammond and Elbert were all members of the Savannah Masonic Lodge. It is unknown whether Nathan Brownson was a *freemason*, but given his associations, it would seem highly probable. Nathan's brothers were original founders of the first *freemason* lodge in New Hampshire.

Robert Rae was a younger brother of John Rae, noted Indian Trader and merchant. General Samuel Elbert was married to Elizabeth Rae, daughter of John Rae and Phoebe Johnson. At various points in time, both Samuel Elbert and Samuel Hammond came into possession of Rae's Hall, John Rae's Savannah plantation, which was situated on a bluff overlooking the Savannah River near the mouth of Pipemaker's Creek. Pipemaker's Creek was situated in the northern part of the Little Ogechee District, and was the site of the first land grant petitioned by John McLean in 1759. McLean later sought a grant elsewhere nearby in Little Ogechee, because "all the good land" had already been run out for Thomas Sacheverel. Because of this close geographic proximity of Samuel Elbert and Samuel Hammond to the Little Ogechee District, Nathan Brownson, and the McLean, Habersham, Bourquin, Fox and Gibbons families would have had ample opportunity to become acquainted. Moreover, because of their high military ranks and prominent rolls in the Revolutionary War, Nathan Brownson, Samuel Elbert and Samuel Hammond undoubtedly would have become close comrades in arms. The career paths of these men held close similarities:

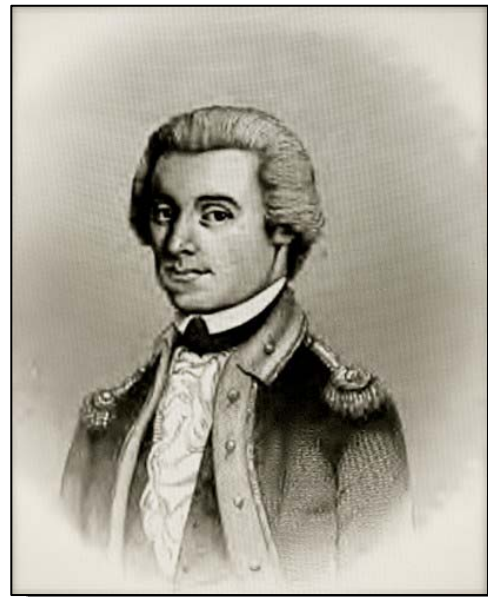


Figure 7-22  
Portrait of Col. Samuel Hammond

**Samuel Elbert** (1740 – November 1, 1788) was an American merchant, soldier, and politician from Savannah, Georgia. Elbert fought in the Revolutionary War, commanding the victorious American colonial forces in a naval battle near St. Simons Island, Georgia on April 19, 1778. He was wounded and captured at the Battle of Brier Creek the following year, though he regained his freedom in a prisoner exchange. He rose to the rank of major in the Georgia militia and colonel in the Continental Army. He was brevetted a brigadier general after the end of the war. In 1784, he was elected to the United States Congress, but declined to serve because he did not consider himself physically fit for the task. He did later serve a term as the 18th **Governor of Georgia**.

**Samuel Hammond** (September 21, 1757 – September 11, 1842) was a lieutenant colonel during the American Revolutionary War, **governor** and leader in the Louisiana and Missouri Territories, and United States Representative from Georgia in the 8th United States Congress. In 1779 Charles Hammond

## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick's Roots

(Samuel's father) moved to South Carolina. Samuel moved with his family and served the Revolutionary War in his new home state. He was promoted to Assistant Quartermaster at the siege of Savannah. He served as member of the "council of capitulation" at Charleston and was made lieutenant colonel. He commanded troops in battle at Augusta, Blackstock's Farm, Cowpens, Eutaw Springs, Guilford Courthouse, Hanging Rock, and Kings Mountain. Shortly after the war he settled in Savannah, Georgia. He served in the Creek War in Alabama and commanded a corps of Georgia Volunteers in 1793. Hammond was **Surveyor General of Georgia in 1796**. He was a member of the Georgia House of Representatives 1796-1798 and a member of the Georgia Senate 1799 and 1800. He was elected as a Republican to the Eighth Congress and served from March 4, 1803, until February 2, 1805. February 2, 1805 he became Colonel Commandant of the St. Louis District of the Louisiana Territory where he served from 1805 to 1824. He was made the first president (governor) of the Missouri Territorial Council in 1813. He was a receiver of public moneys in Missouri and president of the Bank of St. Louis. Hammond moved to South Carolina in 1824 and became a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives. He then served as Surveyor General of South Carolina in 1825 and Secretary of State of South Carolina in 1831–1835. Hammond married widow Rebecca Rae in 1783 and they settled in Savannah, Georgia. Rebecca's deceased husband was Colonel John Rae [probably Robert Rae, brother of John Rae] of Augusta, Georgia. Rebecca died in 1798. Then, Hammond moved to Rae's Hall Plantation. He married a second time to Eliza Amelia O'Keefe on May 5, 1802. He and Eliza Amelia had eight children. He retired from public life and died in 1842 at his home, "Varello Farm," at Beech Island, South Carolina, which is on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River, near Augusta, Georgia. He is now buried near the Hammond Cemetery at the Charles Hammond House, North Augusta, South Carolina. A memorial commemorates the heroic actions of Colonel Samuel Hammond, Colonel LeRoy Hammond, Jr., and Colonel LeRoy Hammond, Sr.



Figure 7-23  
Charles Hammond Home – North Augusta

Things in common between Samuel Hammond, Samuel Elbert and Nathan Brownson included:

- Each served as Governors,
- Each held military rank equivalent to Colonel or above during the Revolutionary War,
- All were residents of the Little Ogechee District at the same time,
- Each served as members of the Georgia legislature,
- Each were born in the early 1740's to 50's, and
- Each spent three summers together with their families on St. Catherine's Island around 1783 to 1786.

Nathan Brownson's son, Galen Brownson, actually lived at the Samuel Hammond home (possibly Rae's Hall) near Savannah in 1796, and his daughter, Elizabeth Brownson Jones, lived for almost 20 years in or near Augusta at the same time that Samuel Hammond lived across the river at North Augusta. Elizabeth Brownson Jones died intestate on 20 May 1847 and was buried at Magnolia Cemetery in Augusta, according to the following cemetery record:

Augusta  
MAGNOLIA  
Card ID A119  
Title MRS

## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick's Roots

First Name	ELIZABETH
Last Name	JONES
Maiden Name	BROWNSON
Gender	F
Race	WHITE
Marital Status	WIDOWED
Age At Death	84
Date of Birth	1763 (calculated)
Date of Death	5/20/1847
Date of Burial	5/21/1847
Cause of Death	OLD AGE
Place of Birth	MASSACHUSETTS
Comments	NO BURIAL LOCATION IS GIVEN IN THE ORIGINAL RECORD BOOK.
Headstone Inscription	"IN MEMORY OF MRS. ELIZABETH JONES. DAUGHTER OF GOV. BROWNSON OF GEORGIA. DIED MAY 20TH, 1847. IN THE 82ND YEAR OF HER AGE."
Section	Old Section

### **Galen Brownson**

The records found for Galen Brownson are presented hereinafter in chronological order:

### **Dr. James Dunwoody Brownson**

## Appendix A

### Burroughson Research

#### Burson Family

The closest match found in South Carolina during the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was the family of Joseph Burson, a yeoman farmer and itinerant Baptist minister, who brought his family south from Buck County Pennsylvania in about 1750. The Joseph Burson family stopped briefly in Fairfax County Virginia before moving on to Berkeley County (later Union County) South Carolina in 1768. Joseph received a patent grant of 150 acres on the upper reaches of Fair Forest Creek on the west side of the Broad River. Joseph and Mary Burson continued to farm their small plot for almost 20 years while their family grew to include five sons and eight daughters. During this period Joseph Burson felt the calling and became a part-time minister in the Baptist churches of that region.

In 1784 and 1785 Joseph and two of his sons: Jonathan and Isaac, received bounty grants in Wilkes County Georgia for their services during the Revolutionary War. Joseph sold his tract of land in Union County, SC on December 18, 1783, but the deed was not recorded until March 28, 1786. Isaac Burson was a witness to the deed recording. It is not known exactly when the Burson family moved from Fair Forest Creek to Georgia, but it was likely sometime during 1785. Joseph Burson's LWT was dated October 28, 1801 and was entered for probate (probably in Warren County, GA) on February 9, 1802.

All efforts to connect the Joseph Burson family with Richard Bostick were unsuccessful. It is reasonable to assume that the paths of the Burson family and the Bostick's may have crossed as there were Bosticks in Spartanburg, Union and Edgefield Counties, South Carolina and in Effingham and Jefferson Counties, Georgia immediately following conclusion of the Revolutionary War. Any of these Bostick families were potentially related to Richard Bostick. However, Joseph Burson's daughters all seem to have been either too young to wed Richard Bostick, or to have been married to other gentlemen. Since Miss Burroughson is believed to have died in 1790, it is possible that Richard Bostick could have married an older, yet unidentified, Burson daughter. Because Miss Burroughson died before Joseph Burson, it is reasonable to assume that she would not be mentioned in Joseph Burson's LWT. Especially since Joseph Burson's estate was very modest and any share due to grandchildren would have been extremely modest indeed.

The only known connection between Miss Burroughson and the Burson family is the similarity in surnames and the geographic and contemporaneous proximities (*Time and Place Convergence*) with known Bostick family members. It is conceivable that the Burson family may have passed through the Black Swamp region enroute from Union County South Carolina to Burke County Georgia in 1785. If Richard Bostick was in the Black Swamp region by 1785, he possibly could have met members of the Burson family during their migration to Georgia. While the ages of the Burson children overlap with Richard Bostick's birth year of 1758, it stretches the imagination to think that an unknown Burson daughter could have been the Miss Burroughson who married Richard Bostick.

#### Broughton Family

## Appendix A

Phonetically, the name “Broughton” would be difficult to confuse with Burroughson; but graphically, it has some similarities to Burroughson, which merit closer consideration. In script form Broughton contains many of the same letters as Burroughson, and one could be visually mistaken for the other. There was a Broughton family in South Carolina which began with the immigration of Thomas Broughton in about 1680. Thomas Broughton married Anne Johnson, daughter of then Governor, Nathaniel Johnson, in about 1688 and is believed to have had three sons and three daughters. Thomas Broughton along with two former Governor’s, James Moore and Nathaniel Johnson, effectively controlled the Indian Trade in South Carolina for over 40 years. As a result, all three men became wealthy and politically influential during the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Thomas Broughton purchased a tract of land on the Cooper River above Charleston in 1708 from Sir John Colleton, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet, consisting of 4,423 acres later known as Mulberry Plantation. Thomas Broughton served in many public offices in the province including provincial Lieutenant Governor 1730-1735 and Acting Governor 1735-1737.

Thomas Broughton was succeeded as Governor by William Bull I, who was succeeded by his son, William Bull II. During the 1740’s William Bull I served with General James Oglethorpe as co-planners of the City of Savannah. The street names of the Savannah historic district reflect the names of illustrious colonial families from both Georgia and South Carolina. Oglethorpe Avenue is the main thoroughfare, and undoubtedly reflects the influence of Savannah’s co-planner, James Oglethorpe. Bull Street runs perpendicular to Oglethorpe, presumably named for the other co-planner, William Bull I. Similarly, there are Drayton, St. Julien, Habersham and Abercorn Streets, all named for renowned colonialists. Broughton Street runs parallel to Oglethorpe Avenue and is situated three blocks to the east. Presumably, Broughton Street, like Bull Street and Oglethorpe Avenue, must have received its attribution from William Bull’s predecessor, Thomas Broughton. The first recorded instance found for the existence of Broughton Street was in the Minutes of the Georgia General Assembly recorded by Colonel William Steven’s, Esq. in which the Assembly proved a new set of ward boundaries on October 25, 1739 to be divided along Broughton Street.<sup>161</sup>

The next recorded instance of a Broughton presence in Georgia was relative to Broughton Island, a sea island situated about 10 miles west of Savannah at the mouth of the Altamaha River. The earliest record found with reference to Broughton Island was in connection with land acquisitions by Henry Laurens of South Carolina in 1763 in which he received a grant of 3,000 acres on the Altamaha adjacent to Broughton Island. Aside from these early landmarks, probably connected to former South Carolina Lieutenant Governor, Thomas Broughton, no solid evidence could be found that any members of this family resided in Savannah in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

Thomas Broughton’s third son, Andrew Broughton Sr., is believed to have married Hannah Guerard in about 1731. Hannah’s parentage is uncertain, but was likely a granddaughter of Jacob Guerard, who is described in Chapter 5 in connection with Samuel Bostick. Jacob Guerard is known to have had two sons who immigrated to South Carolina following the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. Hannah was probably a daughter of one or the other of those sons. Andrew Sr. and Hannah’s son, Andrew Jr., married Anne Singleton on November 19, 1750. The parentage of Anne Singleton is not known with certainty, but she is likely a

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<sup>161</sup> The Colonial Records of the State of Georgia, Volume IV, Allen D. Candler, 1906, p. 438.



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daughter of Richard Singleton and Marianne Dupont. The Singleton's of Beaufort District who intermarried with the Robert, Bostick, McKenzie and other allied families in the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries were descended from Richard Singleton and Marianne Dupont as discussed in subsequent chapters. Andrew Broughton Jr. and Anne Singleton are believed to have had the following children: Andrew III, Richard, Thomas, Mary and Ann.

Andrew Broughton Sr. and his brother, Thomas Broughton Jr. both procured large tracts of land in 1737 in Granville County on Port Royal Island near the town of Beaufort totaling 4,150 acres and 4,000 acres, respectively. Andrew Broughton Sr. also purchased 1,225 acres in Purrysburg Township on May 5, 1737. Another tract of 1,262 acres was shown in ownership of Colonel Thomas Broughton on an early plat of Purrysburg adjacent to tracts owned by Johnson and Middleton. This Purrysburg tract was undoubtedly granted to Thomas Broughton Sr. the immigrant. Additionally, Edward Broughton and his wife, Sarah Weatherly were also recorded as planters in St. Helena's Parish, Granville in the 1740's. No records could be found where any part of these tracts in St. Helena's and St. Luke's Parishes were sold outside the Broughton family in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. However, there were references to tracts in Granville County in later LWT's of various Broughton descendants suggesting that these tracts were split and bequeathed to later generations.

Although the Broughton family home place was considered to be Mulberry Plantation in St. John's Parish on the Cooper River near Charleston, such large holdings in St. Helena's and St. Luke's Parishes in Granville County near Savannah would suggest that Andrew Sr. and Thomas Jr. both must have established at least part-time residences in the Port Royal or Purrysburg areas. Planters on Port Royal Island were primarily engaged in the growing of sea-island cotton, indigo and rice for the overseas market. It is even possible that several of the Broughton children were born and raised on these plantations in Granville near the towns of Beaufort and Purrysburg.

In fact Richard Broughton, son of Andrew Jr. and Anne Singleton, appeared living in St. Luke's Parish in 1790, and a Richard Broughton continued to appear as a resident of St. Luke's Parish through the 1860 census. These Richard Broughtons probably represented three successive generations of Broughtons living on the same land, likely inherited from the Purrysburg tract granted to Andrew Broughton Sr. in May 1737. In the 1850 census Richard Broughton appeared living in St. Luke's Parish within four households of John R. Bostick, the son of Richard Bostick and Miss Burroughson.

Mary Broughton, daughter of Andrew Jr. and Anne Singleton, and sister of Richard Broughton, was reportedly as being of St. John's Parish, Colleton District born in 1762, but she may well have been born on Port Royal Island near Beaufort, since it appears that that was the location of her grandfather's largest land holding. According to Carolina Price Wilson, Richard Bostick's first wife was recorded as Mary Hannah on several deeds in Effingham County.<sup>162</sup> Since Mary Broughton's grandmother was named Hannah, it is very possible that Mary's full Christian name may have been Mary Hannah as name sake for her grandmother. It is possible that Richard Bostick's first wife was actually Mary Hannah Broughton, daughter of Andrew Broughton Jr. and Anne Singleton. Another indicator of this possible connection is the name of Richard and Hannah's second son, Jacob S. Bostick. The Christian name of Jacob had not previously

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<sup>162</sup> Annals of Georgia, Important Early Records of the State, Caroline Price Wilson, 1933, p. 19.

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appeared anywhere in this Bostick families lineage. The appearance of the Christian name, Jacob, in this generation might reasonably be assumed to emanate from the maternal branch of the family. Mary Broughton's great grandfather was named Jacob Guerard, and there were Jacob Guerards in every subsequent generation of Guerards, up to and including Mary's generation. It is very possible that Jacob S. Bostick was christened "Jacob" for his great great grandfather and "Singleton" for his grandmother.

There are several factors which support this possible connection:

1. The spelling of the name Broughton offers a very close match to the name of Burroughson. The spellings are sufficiently close that they might visually be mistaken when seen written in script form.
2. Samuel Bostick appears to have had some fairly close connection with Godin Guerard, who is believed to have been a descendant of Hannah Guerard's parents, and at a minimum shared a common ancestry in Jacob Guerard, the original immigrant.
3. Mary [Hannah] Broughton was of the proper age (born 1762) to have been a wife to Richard Bostick (born 1758), and she was possibly given the middle name for her grandmother, Hannah Guerard.
4. Mary's mother, Anne Singleton was an ancestor of the Singleton's who later intermarried with the Robert, Bostick and McKenzie families in Beaufort District.
5. Richard Broughton, the brother of Mary Broughton, lived most of his adult life in St. Peter's Parish, Granville County, the home parish of the Bostick, Robert and allied families throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.
6. There was a Richard Broughton continuously residing in Beaufort District for over 75 years. In 1850, Richard Broughton (Jr. or III) was living within four households of John R. Bostick. If Mary [Hannah] Broughton was the first wife of Richard Bostick, then this Richard Broughton and John R. Bostick would have been first cousins.
7. Richard Bostick and his first wife named their second son, Jacob S. Bostick. Jacob is a very uncommon name within the various Bostick lineages. It is possible that Jacob S. Bostick was christened Jacob for Jacob Guerard, and S. for Singleton. The Guerard family ancestors paid tribute to their progenitor, Jacob Guerard, by christening at least one male offspring as "Jacob" in each of the ensuing four generations. In fact, Doctor Jacob Guerard was a prominent Beaufort citizen through the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.
8. Port Royal is almost as far from Savannah as is Robertville from Savannah, so someone from Port Royal would not likely be confused as being from Savannah by anyone living in Robertville area. However, it was common practice for large-scale planters in the low-country to maintain a primary residence in the nearest large town, typically either Savannah or Charleston. So it is very possible that Andrew Jr. may have maintained a primary residence in Savannah, in which case his children, including Mary [Hannah] may have been considered as being from Savannah.
9. There is evidence of members from both the Broughton and Guerard families living in Savannah in the early 1800's as recorded in death records: 14Oct1804 John Broughton Infant, 22Mar1806 Robert Infant son of Peter Guerard, 29Apr1808 George Haist Infant son of Peter Guerard, 14Sep1811 Mary Elizabeth Infant daughter of Elijah Broughton,

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18Oct1815 Mary Ann Infant daughter of Peter Guerard, and 13Jan1817 Elijah Infant son of Elijah Broughton.<sup>163</sup>

The above analysis of the Broughton family in South Carolina provides a possible connection to Richard Bostick's first wife. No records have been discovered which would provide any connection with certainty.

### Burleson Family

Another candidate for Miss Burroughson exists within the Burleson family lineage. The Burson and Burleson surnames both have phonetic similarities to Burroughson, but the surname of Burleson has a greater degree of similarity and could easily be mistaken for Burroughson when communicated orally. As it happens there may very likely have been a strand of the Burleson family living in upper Beaufort County in the 1780's. There is also documented evidence of later generations of that same Burleson line living in the vicinity of Richard Bostick's kin in Beaufort District (Jasper and Hampton Counties) the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Aaron Burleson is reported to have married Rachel Hendricks possibly in Rutherford County area of North Carolina in about 1757.<sup>164</sup> This Aaron Burleson is believed to have been the son of Aaron Burleson, Sr., who is thought to have immigrated to the Virginia Colony between 1735 and 1745. The earliest records of the Burleson family in Virginia begin with the court ordered payment by Aaron Burleson of 140 pounds of tobacco in 1746 for the maintenance of one-year-old Charles Talbot in Lunenburg County Virginia.

Aaron Burleson Jr. and Rachel Hendricks represent the first known intersection between the Burleson and Bostick families, albeit secondarily through marriage. Rachel Hendricks is thought to be the niece or cousin of Betty (Elizabeth) Hendricks, who married Charles Bostick, son of William Bostick Sr. Betty Hendricks is believed to have been a daughter of Adolphus Hendricks and to have been born in Goochland County, Virginia around 1730.<sup>165</sup> The identification of Rachel Hendricks as the wife of Aaron Burleson Jr. is attributed by Burleson family genealogists on numerous occasions. Rachel Hendricks' parentage is not known with certainty, but it seems certain that she was one generation behind Betty Hendricks and that they were both descendants of Hans Hendrick. Rachel may have been the daughter of Benjamin Hendrick Jr., who was born in about 1750 and died sometime around 1810-15.<sup>166</sup>

### Aaron Burleson Sr.

Aaron Burleson Sr. first appears in public records on July 8, 1746 where he was charged 140 pounds of tobacco for his assignee, Charles Talbot a one-year-old boy (Lunenburg Order Book I, page 138)<sup>167</sup>. Aaron Burleson and Jonathan Burleson both appeared on the Lunenburg County

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<sup>163</sup> Annals of Georgia, Important Early Records of the State, Volume 3, Caroline Price Wilson, 1933.

<sup>164</sup> Burleson Family Association Bulletin

<sup>165</sup> The Pamunkey Hendrick Family, Robert W. Baird, <http://www.genfiles.com/hendrick/hendrick.html>, Chapter 2, p. 38, accessed December 22, 2008

<sup>166</sup> The Pamunkey Hendrick Family, Robert W. Baird, <http://www.genfiles.com/hendrick/hendrick.html>, Chapter 4, p. 71, accessed December 22, 2008

<sup>167</sup> Burleson Family Association Bulletin

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Tax Roll in 1748 in John Phelp's District. Both men appeared separately, each with a single poll listed.<sup>168</sup> In 1749, John [Jonathan] Burleson appeared on the Lunenburg County Tax Roll in Matthew Talbot's District with a single poll. He was the only Burleson listed in that year in all of Virginia. Many of the tax rolls for Lunenburg County between 1749 and 1751 are missing. In 1752, John Burleson was listed in John Phelps District with another "John Burleson" listed in the household, and with a total to two tithables.<sup>169</sup> It is likely that the John Burleson listed in 1749 and in 1752 as head of household was Jonathan Burleson. The second John Burleson listed in the household in 1752 was likely Jonathan Burleson's son, who probably turned sixteen years of age sometime between 1749 and 1752. Aaron Burleson appeared in the Lunenburg County Tax Rolls only the one time in 1748. Generally, in order to appear on a tax roll as head of household a person had to be a male over the age of 21 and have sufficient property value. It may be that between 1749 and 1751 the records containing Aaron Burleson's name were lost, or that he had moved out of Lunenburg County.

On December 15, 1749 Aaron Burleson Sr. received a royal grant of 147 acres on Little Otter River in Lunenburg County, Virginia at the general location noted as "B" in Figure A-1.<sup>170</sup> This would suggest that Aaron Burleson Sr. still lived in Lunenburg, but his tax record had been lost in that tax year. It is believe that this Aaron Burleson was the Aaron Burleson frequently referred to in genealogical records as Aaron Burleson I. His origins from tradition seem to be varied, wherein some have it that he came south from either New York or New Jersey around 1740 to 1745 while others have him immigrating from Wales.<sup>171</sup> In 1755 on a grant deed from John Echols to James Turner, Echols appears to be selling the same land granted to Aaron Burleson in 1749.<sup>172</sup> The fact that Aaron Burleson did not appear on any Lunenburg Tax Rolls after 1748 suggests that had probably sold his land grant and moved out of the County before 1752.

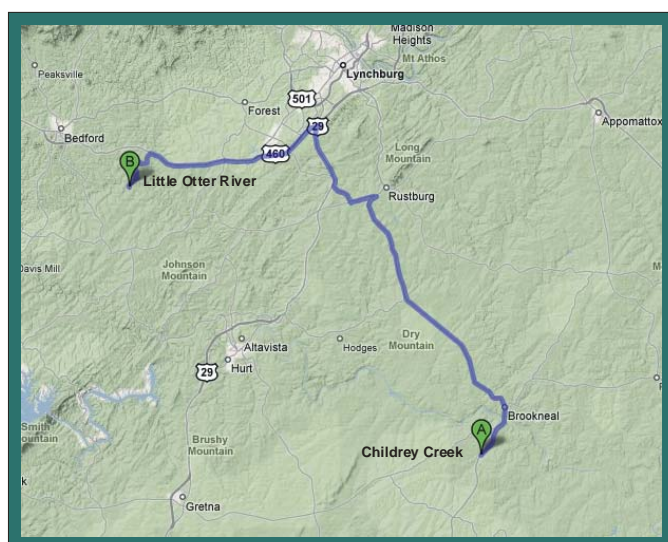


FIGURE A-1  
Little Otter River Location Map

Another deed filed on September 10, 1755 by Richard Randolph for 14,000 acres on branches of the Little Otter River, showed an unknown Burleson as an adjacent land owner.<sup>173</sup> This Burleson was likely Jonathan Burleson. On March 1, 1773 Nathaniel Williams filed a deed for 4,254 acres in Bedford County on the north side of Goose Creek, which showed Jonathan Burleson as

<sup>168</sup> Burleson Family Association Bulletin

<sup>169</sup> Burleson Family Association Bulletin

<sup>170</sup> *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume VI*, Edited By Dennis Ray Hudgins, Virginia Genealogical Society, 1998, p. 3.

<sup>171</sup> LDS Family History

<sup>172</sup> Burleson Family Association Bulletin

<sup>173</sup> *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume VI*, p. 95.

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an adjacent landowner.<sup>174</sup> Although it is believed that Aaron Burleson moved out of Bedford County around 1751, it would appear that Jonathan Burleson continued to live at least another 20 years in Bedford County, or that this was his son, John [Jonathan].

Charles Bostick, who married Betty Hendricks, purchased 350 acres on the north side of Childrey Creek in Halifax County in 1755 at the general location noted as “A” in Figure XX. The location of Charles Bostick’s tract was within about 40 miles of Aaron Burleson’s tract on Little Otter River. Although they were living in the same general area during the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, there is no reason to believe that they lived there during the same time period or that their families were acquainted with one another. However, it should be noted that several members of the Hendricks family lived in Lunenburg (later Bedford) County and Halifax County during the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century, which is probably how Charles Bostick met Betty Hendricks.

Bedford County Virginia was formed in 1753 from part of Lunenburg County. On the 1754-1758 Bedford County Order Book 1A during the July Court Jonathan Burleson and John Echols among others were ordered to appear related to a “riot” occurring the previous day.<sup>175</sup> The “riot” apparently was related to their failure to assist James Ayrs, Constable, in the execution of his duties. Subsequently, twice having been summoned and failing to appear, Jonathan Burleson was fined twenty schillings and ordered that he may be taken (arrested?). In a fifth entry regarding this matter (date uncertain) both Jonathan and John Burleson were summoned to appear. It is possible that John Burleson, Jonathan’s son, may have been involved in the original incident, but being under age twenty-one, was not summoned until he had attained that age.

1757 Aaron Burleson Sr. is believed to have appeared on a royal grant for 200 acres in Georgia.<sup>176</sup> In order to qualify for a grant of this size, there needed to be two other persons in the household in addition to Aaron, probably Aaron’s wife and son Jesse. The parcel was described as being within St. Paul’s Parish, Georgia, bounded on the east by the Savannah River, on the south by Williams Creek, on the north by Hugh Middleton’s land and on the west by vacant land. Based on the plat map for the Middleton parcel it would appear that Aaron Burleson’s parcel would have been situated under the present day Clarks Hill Lake (Lake Strom Thurmond). Clarks Hill Lake was created by the construction of the Thurmond Dam on the Savannah River about two miles upstream of the city of Augusta between 1946 and 1954. Williams Creek is shown on modern maps as a tributary of Little River. The Little River arm of the Clarks Hill reservoir extends almost 26 miles upstream from the Savannah River. The Williams Creek fork of Little River is another approximately 20 miles further upstream from the reservoir, or almost 46 miles upstream from the Savannah River. It is likely that the Williams Creek shown on the plat map and the present day Little River between the Williams Creek branch and the Savannah River were one and the same.

In 1761 Aaron Burleson (believed to be Aaron Sr.) received a grant of 200 acres in St. Matthews Parish, Georgia (Effingham County).<sup>177</sup> In order to qualify for this grant Aaron’s household would need to have grown by four members since receiving his first grant in 1757. This suggests

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<sup>174</sup> Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume VII, 1999, p. 299.

<sup>175</sup> Burleson Family Association Bulletin

<sup>176</sup> Colonial Records of Georgia

<sup>177</sup> Burleson Family Association Bulletin



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the birth of four more children between 1757 and 1761. Under the “Miss Burleson” scenario we are looking for an unknown Burleson daughter born sometime around 1760, which the 1761 Effingham County grant seems to support. Effingham County was formed from St. Matthews Parish in 1777. The location of Aaron’s parcel in St. Matthews Parish is unknown. This is the last public record located for Aaron Burleson Sr. in Georgia until his death in Wilkes County in 1783.

It is very probable that the Aaron Burleson on Williams Creek in Georgia in 1757 and in St. Matthews Parish in 1761 was the same Aaron Burleson who sold his grant in Lunenburg County between 1750 and 1755. This connection is supported by the presence of Aaron Sr.’s son, Jesse in Effingham County in 1787. Other researchers have theorized that the Aaron Burleson who appeared in St. Paul’s Parish, Georgia was Aaron Burleson Sr.<sup>178</sup> and this writer agrees with that conclusion. While in Georgia, it is believed that Aaron Burleson Sr. married his second wife, Mary (Martha) Patty Wilder, probably around 1769, and later died in 1783 in Wilkes County, Georgia. The Aaron Burleson of Wilkes County did not leave a will, but his estate was probated and appraised through a Letter of Administration granted to Patty Burleson (widow) in Wilkes County on December 2, 1783. The court appointed appraisers on February 28, 1784 and the appraisal was entered on March 15, 1784 with a value of about 10 pounds.<sup>179</sup>

The following land records were recorded in Cumberland County, North Carolina between October 1761 and December 1769, and all appear to have involved Aaron Burleson Jr.:

1. An order for survey was entered dated October 21, 1761, for Aaron Burleson on Richland Creek. The plat being completed on September 26, 1762.
2. On April 22, 1763 Aaron Burleson received a grant of 150 acres on Richland Creek in Cumberland County, North Carolina (Bk. 15, Pg. 507).<sup>180</sup> The size of this grant suggests that Aaron was married, as he would have been entitled to 100 acres for himself and another 50 for another member of the household, i.e. a wife.
3. On July 27, 1762 Aaron Burleson witnessed a deed from Joseph Dunham to Samuel Larrimore for 150 acres on a branch of Lower Little River (possibly Richland Creek).
4. 27 April 1767 - Grant: Henry ATKINSON for 100 acres on Richland Creek. Beginning at a black oak on the north side of said creek and near the ...? branch, running thence South 59 East, to and with the land laid out for AARON BURLESON, 31.63 chains; thence North 31 East, 31.63 chains; thence South 59 West, 31.63 chains; thence to the beginning. Signed: Wm. Tryon, Governor.
5. 13 Sept 1768 - Deed: Samuel LARRIMORE to Laurence STROTHERS for 80 acres, 50 lbs. Proclamation. Book D, p.311. Situated on the upper road on Duncan's (Dunham) creek, on both sides of said creek, it being a piece of land settled by Samuel Larrimore,

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<sup>178</sup> Burleson Family Association Bulletin

<sup>179</sup> Burleson Family Association Bulletin

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purchased of AARON BURLESON, and patented by Joseph DUNHAM. Signed: Samuel LARRIMORE (Seal)... Witnesses: Thomas COLLINS, James (x) SMITH...

6. 22 Dec 1769 - Deed: Henry ATKINSON to Benjamin ATKINSON... 100 acres on Richland's Creek from grant of 1767. (same 100 acres granted to Henry Atkinson on April 27, 1767 above)

Richland Creek was a branch on the north side of Lower Little River. The name Richland Creek no longer appears of modern maps. However, based on the description for the tract involved in Item 5 above, it is likely that the name Richland Creek gave way to Dunhams Creek, which does appear on current maps. Dunhams Creek flows into Crains Creek, which flows into Lower Little River about ten miles northwest of Fayetteville. The three deeds described in Items 4 thru 6 above refer to Aaron Burleson's land, however, it is likely that Aaron Burleson no longer lived on that land along Richland Creek.

One additional deed in Anson County witnessed by Aaron Burleson is listed below:

7. On January 24, 1763 Aaron Burleson witnessed a deed for the sale of an unspecified amount of land from John Brooks to John Culpepper on Richardson Creek in Anson County, North Carolina (Bk. 2, Pg. 9).<sup>181</sup>

At this juncture it is prudent to interrupt the presentation of further historical facts until some discussion is had on the various characters thus far introduced. From the foregoing, several relevant facts can be deduced: (1) in 1748 both Aaron and Jonathan Burleson were at least twenty-one years old, because they both appeared in the Lunenburg County Tax Roll in that year as heads of households, (2) Jonathan Burleson was probably at least 36 years of age in 1752 as he seems to have a son just over the age of sixteen years, (3) given his probable age in 1752, it can reasonably be assumed that Jonathan Burleson was born sometime around 1715, (4) if the Aaron Burleson of St. Paul's Parish in Georgia was the same person as Aaron Burleson of Lunenburg County, then he was probably born around the same time as Jonathan Burleson, (5) given the close living proximity of Aaron Burleson and Jonathan Burleson in Lunenburg County, the uniqueness of surname and the closeness of their ages (*Place and Time Convergence*), it is highly likely that they were related, most likely either brothers or first cousins, (6) given the long distance between Effingham County Georgia and Cumberland County North Carolina, it is very unlikely that the Aaron Burlesons associated with those records were the same person, (7) given that Aaron Burleson did not report any other members in his household in 1748, it is likely that all his male children were under the age of sixteen at that time, and (8) given the deed in Bedford County in 1773, it is likely that Jonathan Burleson remained in Bedford County until his death, and that possibly his son continued to live in that county.

The Aaron Burleson who acquired land in Cumberland County and witnessed a grant in Anson County North Carolina between 1761 and 1763 was not likely the same person who was granted land in St. Matthews Parish Georgia in 1761. It is very likely that the Aaron Burleson in Cumberland County North Carolina in 1761 was a son of either Jonathan or Aaron Burleson Sr. It is very likely that he was the son of Aaron Burleson Sr. and the same Aaron Burleson who left

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<sup>181</sup> Burleson Family Association Bulletin

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his LWT dated November 16, 1781 and probated in Washington County Tennessee.<sup>182</sup> *It should not be ruled out that this Aaron might also have been another son of Jonathan Burleson.*

Aaron Burleson Jr. is not of interest to this inquiry, except to the extent that he might help further delineate important parameters associated with Aaron Sr. The fact that Aaron Burleson Jr. appears on land records in Cumberland and Anson Counties, North Carolina between 1761 and 1763 suggests that he must have been at least 21 years old in 1761. If he were under 16 years old in 1748, when Aaron Burleson Sr. was reported as a single poll on the tax roll, he would have been born after 1733. If he were at least 21 years of age when he appeared on the land record in Cumberland County in 1761, then he would have been born before 1740. Based on these two age-limiting parameters, Aaron Jr. would have been born sometime between 1733 and 1740. Taking an average, it will be assumed that Aaron Jr. was born in 1736/37. It is possible that he could have traveled to Georgia on or before 1757 with his father and then returned to Cumberland County, North Carolina. However, based on the foregoing analysis of Aaron Jr.'s age, it is more likely that he was over 21 years old, when Aaron Sr. migrated to Georgia, and therefore probably opted to remain in North Carolina.

We cannot yet leave North Carolina without first identifying some interesting anomalies. In the 1760's and 1770's there were several land transactions in Tryon County, which suggest some possible connection to Aaron Burleson Sr. It is not clear just how long Aaron Burleson Jr. remained in Cumberland County, but land records suggest that he had sold his grant on Richland Creek and moved on before 1768. It is likely that he relocated to Mecklenburg County.

Sometime prior to 1766 an unknown Burleson had taken out a grant on an upper branch of Turkey Creek, which is now part of York County, South Carolina.<sup>183</sup> Turkey Creek is a Tributary to Broad River and commences near the town of York and flows southwesterly thru Chester County into Broad River. Figure A-2 is an extract from Robert Mills' 1825 map of York County, which illustrates the location of Turkey Creek. On July 25, 1766 Francis Ross received a grant of 200 acres on the head of the Burleson Branch

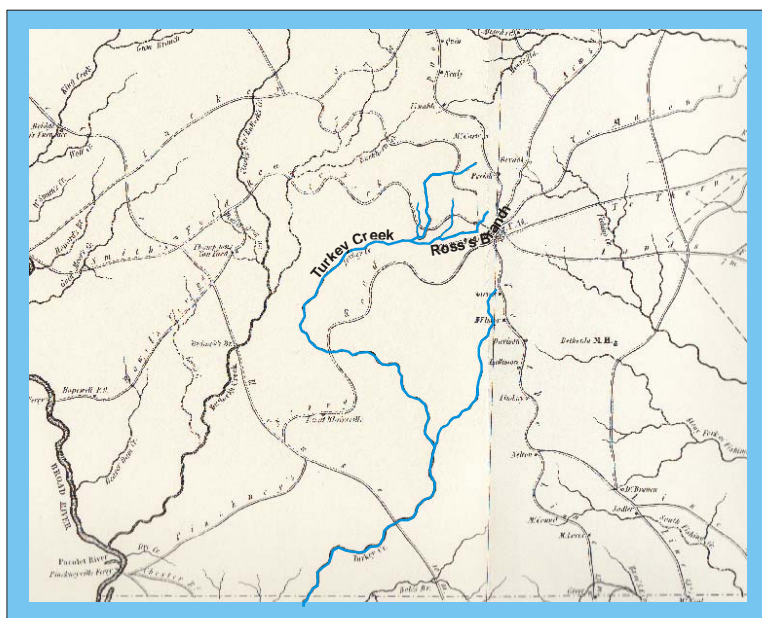


FIGURE A-2  
York County - Turkey Creek Location Map Circa 1825

<sup>182</sup> Burleson Family Association Bulletin

<sup>183</sup> **John Miller:** File No. 0208. Warrant: Unto John Miller, 200 acres on Turkey Creek, including Burleson's improvement...22 September 1766, William Tryon Plat: Surveyed for Jon Miller, 200 acres on a branch of Turkey Creek including Burleson's old improvement...26 November 1766. Peter Johnston, Surveyor; James and George Ross, Chain Bearers.

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of Turkey Creek.<sup>184</sup> On current maps there is a Ross Branch near the headwaters of Turkey Creek, which very likely is the same as Burleson Branch.

No public records could be located which disclose the identity of this unknown Burleson. Only the ghost of his existence could be found in the 1766 grant to John Miller for 200 acres on Turkey Creek, which included Burleson's old improvement. A 200 acre grant suggests at least one child and a wife. Subsequent grants and plats for land in the vicinity referred to the Burlesons Branch or Fork of Turkey Creek. This unknown Burleson must have been the original settler on this branch of Turkey Creek in order for it to have been memorialized with his name. Similarly, some of these grants also make reference to Loves Branch, which was separated from Burlesons Branch by a ridge, both being tributaries of Turkey Creek. It is conceivable that this unknown "Burleson improvement" was the plantation of Aaron Sr. between the time that he disappeared from Lunenburg County, Virginia in about 1750 and the time that he reappeared in St. Paul's Parish in Georgia in 1757.

Another landmark of note in this area is Allison's Creek, which has its headwaters to the northeast of York and flows easterly into the Catawba River. The surname Allison will be shown to play a significant roll in the branch of the Burleson family of interest to this research, although no direct connection could be positively established to the many Allison families of this region.

The next chronological recording for Aaron Burleson was found in 1766 on Sandy Run to the north of the Broad River.<sup>185</sup> A plat map was filed for Aaron Burleson on August 11, 1766 for 100 acres located on both sides of Sandy Run on the north side of Broad River. Zach Bullock was the surveyor, and Daniel Shipman and Thomas Burleson were the chain bearers. Daniel Shipman is believed to have been the brother-in-law of Aaron Burleson Sr., and Thomas Burleson is believed to have been a son of Aaron Burleson Sr. It is very likely that the Aaron Burleson on Sandy Run was Aaron Jr. and that Thomas Burleson was his brother. Daniel Shipman is believed to have married Aaron Sr.'s sister, Elizabeth Burleson.

Sandy Run is a tributary of the Broad River to the north located within present day Rutherford County. Its location is as shown on Figure XX. Sandy Run has its headwaters at about the 1400-foot elevation just west of Jack Moore Mountain and its course extends almost 20 miles southerly to its confluence with the Broad River just upstream of the First Little Broad River fork.

Over the course of the next twelve years Aaron Burleson Jr.'s name appeared on six more land transactions in the vicinity of Sandy Run, which are summarized as follows:

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<sup>184</sup> **Ross, Francis:** File No. 908 (1629), Grant No. 153, Book 17, Page 407 (18,372) Plat Map: 25<sup>th</sup> July 1766, Surveyed for Francis Ross, 200 acres on head of Burrelson [sic] Branch [Turkey Creek]...Zach Bullock, John Miller, William Ross, CB Issued 25<sup>th</sup> April 1767.

<sup>185</sup> **Burleson, Aaron:** File No. 2032, Book 23, Page 40. August 11<sup>th</sup> 1766. Surveyed for Aaron Burleson 100 acres of land on both sides of Sandy Run and North side of Broad River. Surveyed by Zach Bullock, Daniel Shipman and Thomas Burleson, Chain Bearers.

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1. October 11, 1769 Aaron Burleson witnessed a grant deed of 200 acres on First Little Broad River from Moses Whitely to Nicolas Fisher, all of Tryon County.
2. File No. 2426, Grant Book Page 562, April 9, 1770 – Aaron Burleson was granted 200 acres in Tryon on both sides of Cathey's Creek including Walker's Camping place; adjoining Joseph Black and Hugh Black. Catheys Creek is a tributary to Second Little Broad River, which joins the Broad River about seven miles upstream from the mouth of Sandy Run. The mouth of Catheys Creek is about two miles from the town of Bostic, North Carolina. Bostic was named for its first mayor, George Bostic, great grandson of Charles Bostick and Ruth Scoggins. This Bostick family first settled in Rutherford County in about 1790, so there is no reason to believe that they had any connections to Aaron Bostick Jr.
3. September 1, 1771 Aaron Burleson sold 200 acres for \$40 Proclamation Money to John Meteer (location not given) both of Tryon County, witnessed by Robert McMinn. This tract may have been the tract located on Catheys Creek described in Item 2, above.
4. August 1, 1772 Aaron Burleson sold 100 acres on both sides Sandy Run for \$50 Proc. Money to Robert McMinn (appears to be same parcel he received by grant in 1766).
5. October 19, 1778 Robert McMinn sold 100 acres on both sides Sandy Run to Abraham Kuykendall for \$80 Proc. Money, witnessed by John Kuykendall. This is same parcel granted to Aaron Burleson in 1766 and later sold to Robert McMinn. Abraham Kuykendall is believed to be Aaron's brother-in-law who married his sister Elizabeth.
6. January 11, 1784 Abraham Kuykind [Kuykendall] of Washington County, North Carolina sold 75 acres on both sides Sandy Run to William Ravis of Rutherford County for 100 pounds, part of grant to Aaron Burleson in 1766.

There do not appear to be any further records on Aaron Burleson Jr. in North Carolina until near the end of the Revolutionary War. November 16 1781 in Sullivan County North Carolina Aaron Burleson Jr. wrote his last will and testament. He apparently died a few months afterward, as his LWT was proven in Washington County in the May 1782 Session and recorded in that county in Will Book 1, Page 2.<sup>186</sup>

Although the record trail for Aaron Burleson Sr. is sparse and compounded by the presence of his son, Aaron Burleson Jr., there seems to be sufficient proof to conclude that Aaron Burleson Sr. moved from Lunenburg County Virginia to York County South Carolina before moving on to St. Paul's Parish Georgia in about 1756. It also seems likely that Aaron Burleson Jr. had reached adulthood by 1756 and decided to remain in North Carolina, possibly on his father's Turkey Creek plantation, before buying the tract in Cumberland County.

But if all the known records of Aaron Burleson in North Carolina between 1761 and 1772 were Aaron Jr., then what became of Aaron Sr. after his grant in St. Matthews Parish Georgia in 1761? There is good reason to believe that Aaron Sr. remained in Georgia until his death in 1783. In order to understand the rationale for Aaron Sr. remaining in Georgia, it is important to fill in some of the missing pieces of his family's background. So far no mention has been made of a wife or children except for a brief reference to his second wife, Mary Patty Wilder, four children: Elizabeth Burleson Kuykendall, Aaron Burleson Junior, Jesse Burleson and Thomas Burleson,

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<sup>186</sup> Burleson Family Association Bulletin



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and possible siblings Jonathan Burleson and Elizabeth Burleson Shipman. It is believed that Aaron Senior had several more children by a first wife.

William S. Burleson wrote a short article that appeared in a 1988 issue of the Burleson Family Association's bulletin<sup>187</sup>, which suggests that Aaron Sr. had been married at least once before he married Mary Wilder. Mr. Burleson further suggests that Aaron Sr. and his first wife had at least five daughters who married gentlemen with the surnames of Crawford, Allison, Hardeman, Harrington and Kuykendall. The basis for Mr. Burleson's statement about the surnames of Aaron's son-in-laws was not provided other than the statement that the surnames appeared in early records of Wilkes County Georgia. It might be noted that the surnames of Crawford, Harrington, Allison and Kuykendall also appeared in Tryon and Rutherford Counties, North Carolina in the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This researcher believes that there may have been an additional daughter who married Richard Bostick in Beaufort, South Carolina or Effingham County, Georgia before 1785 who became known through family lore as "Miss Bourroughson".

In addition to these possible daughters, it seems quite clear from records that there were also several sons. Three sons are known with some degree of certainty as Aaron Jr., Thomas, and Jesse. Other researchers have attributed four other sons to Aaron Sr. and Sarah Camp<sup>188</sup> as follows: John, James, Daniel and Edward. Some researchers have even suggested that Jonathan was another son of Aaron Sr. This researcher has found no basis for any sons of Aaron Sr. and Sarah Camp other than Aaron Jr., Thomas and Jesse, and only Jesse can be connected with any degree of certainty. It is very possible that Aaron Jr. and Thomas could have been sons of Jonathan. In addition to the many children possibly attributed to his first wife; Mary Patty Wilder Burleson, the presumed second wife, also had four children with Aaron Sr. It should be noted that one of those children was named Aaron Jackson Burleson. This begs the question whether, if Aaron Jr. were a child of Aaron Sr., would he likely have named another son Aaron?

Assuming that Aaron Sr. did remain in Georgia from 1757 until his death in 1783, it is likely that he spent those years as a yeoman farmer on grants along the Savannah River. It has already been established that he was awarded grants totaling 400 acres in what ultimately became Columbia and Effingham Counties. His estate was administered in Wilkes County. His Williams Creek parcel probably was located near the southern border within Wilkes County. At the time of his death there was no mention of his estate containing any real property or any slaves. It is probable that as he entered old age he was no longer able to work the land and had disposed of his property through sale or gift deed. When Aaron moved to Georgia he probably brought some children by his first wife, and, once in Georgia, he and Sarah probably had more children together. Aaron and Mary Patty Burleson's first child reportedly was born in 1770 in St. Paul's Parish. Based on that date, it is likely that Aaron's first wife was alive when they moved to Georgia and that some of their children were born in Georgia. This researcher believes that the daughter known as Miss Burroughson [Burleson] was born in about 1762 while Aaron and Sarah lived in Effingham County. This belief is born of the contention that Miss Burroughson was from Savannah.

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<sup>187</sup> Burleson Family Association Bulletin, Volume VIII, Page 1018, 1988.

<sup>188</sup> LDS Family History Records for Aaron Burleson, born around 1690 to 1730, list his wife as Sarah Camp.

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As can be seen on the Georgia Parish map contained in Figure A-3, St. Matthews Parish was immediately north of Christ Church Parish, which included the town of Savannah. To someone living in Black Swamp area in Beaufort District South Carolina, someone from St. Matthews Parish might very well have been described as being “from Savannah”. The exact location of Aaron Sr.’s Effingham tract is unknown, and may have been situated in the southern part of St. Matthews Parish, which would place it quite close to the town of Savannah. It almost certainly was very close to the Savannah River. Settlement during this time period typically fronted upon the major waterways and spread inland as frontage property became scarce and raids from Indians became less prevalent. Thus far in this investigation the Burleson family has been potentially connected to Richard Bostick through the intermarriage of the respective families with members of the Pamunkey Hendrick family, and by the close geographic and contemporaneous proximity in the Savannah River region in the 1780’s.

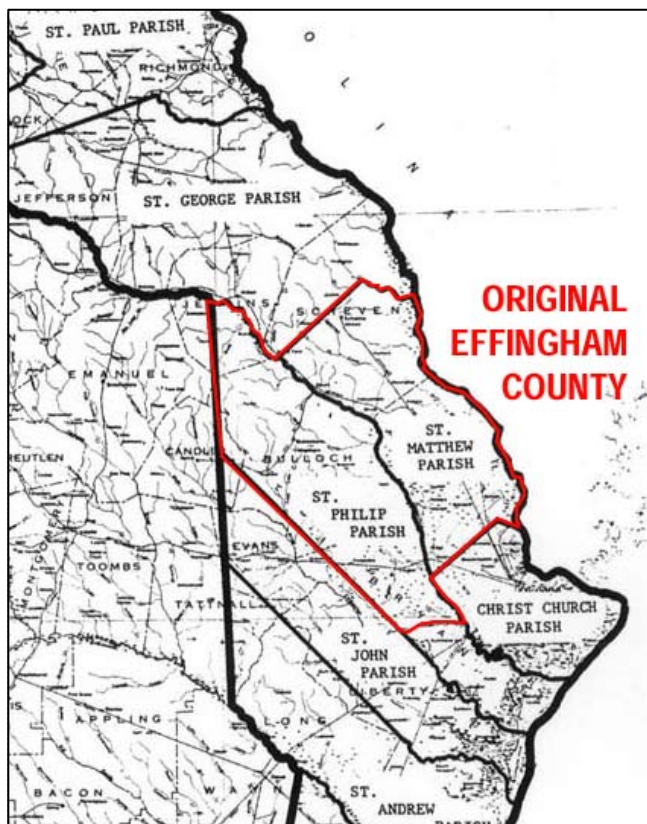


FIGURE A-1  
Original Effingham County Boundary Map

### Jesse Burleson

Jesse was born in about 1751 in either Lunenburg County, Virginia or in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. If born in Mecklenburg NC, then he was likely born on Turkey Creek, which later fell within York County, South Carolina. Many researchers credit Jesse with marrying Elizabeth Clifton about 1778 in Mobile Alabama or Rutherford County North Carolina, while others have him marrying Elizabeth D’Urbeville in the French Settlement in Mobile Alabama around 1788. In light of other facts attributed to Jesse Burleson the dates and locations of these marriages seem unlikely. Most researchers agree that Jesse married Elizabeth Clifton.<sup>189</sup>

On the other hand, the surname D’Urbeville is somewhat dubious as it could not be located anywhere in the colonial records of Georgia, South Carolina or North Carolina. There were French settlers in South Carolina at various times between 1690 and 1740. In fact there were two settlements in the vicinity of Aaron Sr.’s tracts in St. Paul’s Parish and St. Matthews Parish at Purrysburg on the lower Savannah and New Bordeaux at Long Cane Creek on the upper

<sup>189</sup> LDS Family History

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Savannah about 40 miles above Augusta. The French immigrants to these settlements have been well documented, but no surname even remotely resembling D'Urbeville occurs. The closest name discovered was DeTreville from Port Royal Island, South Carolina in the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. There is no reason to believe any connection existed between Jesse Burleson and the DeTreville family. Whether Jesse was anywhere in the vicinity of Mobile Alabama during the times of his purported marriages is highly unlikely.

There were Clifton's in Beaufort District South Carolina and Effingham County, Georgia in the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. In Beaufort District plat maps were recorded for Hannah Clifton as early as 1764 followed by plats for Michael Clifton, William Clifton, John Clifton, George Clifton and Jonathan Clifton between 1771 and 1803. At least George Clifton and Jonathan Clifton appear to have been sons of Hannah Clifton, as they appeared on an estate administration record as executors of Hannah Clifton. It is probable that the other male Clifton's appearing on plat maps in Beaufort during this time period were also sons on Hannah Clifton. Most of the plat maps were for tracts along the Salkehatchie River near Whippy Swamp, which is located in present day Hampton County.

There were also two Cliftons recorded on plat maps in Effingham County around 1785. William Clifton was granted two tracts in 1783: one for 125 acres and another for 50 acres, both on Little Sculls Creek a tributary of Great Ogeechee River near present day Paramore Hill. William was granted another tract for 225 acres on Little Sculls Creek. In 1792 John Clifton was granted a tract for 200 acres on Little Sculls Creek adjoining William Clifton.

In February 1787 Jesse Burleson was granted 200 acres in Effingham County adjoining tracts owned by Richard Allbritton and John Allbritton. There were no identifying geographic markers shown on Jesse's plat map. However, a plat map filed in 1784 for John Allbritton located on Horse Creek, a tributary of Great Ogeechee River, clearly matches with the south boundary of Jesse Burleson's tract. So it can be deduced that Jesse's 200-acre tract granted in 1787 was located immediately northeast of Horse Creek near present day Rocky Ford. Horse Creek flows into the Ogeechee from the east, whereas Sculls Creek flows into the Ogeechee from the west. The mouth of Horse creek is about eight miles downstream from Sculls Creek, so Jesse Burleson's tract was relatively close to the Clifton tracts. William Clifton was shown as the surveyor of record on Jesse Burlseon's plat map. William and John Burleson are believed to have been brothers, who were born in North Carolina, living in both Onslow and Bertie Counties during their youth, before moving to Effingham County in about 1782.

A brief biographical background of William and John Clifton is presented as follows:<sup>190</sup>

“William Clifton, Jr. was born 1745, possibly in Kent County Delaware, and died 1793 in Scarboro, GA. By 1765 the Clifton family was living in Onslow County, North Carolina. By 1773, William Clifton, his brother John Jr. and his sister Elizabeth moved north into Bertie County, North Carolina, where family tradition says they settled along the Roanoke River. Their brother Peter settled there as early as 1769 according to tax digests. William was married in Bertie County on July 29, 1773 to Elizabeth Wheeler

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<sup>190</sup> Descendants of John Sr. Clifton, <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/y/Kathryn-R-Layton-HIAWASSEE/PDFGENE9.pdf>, accessed December 15, 2008

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Hall, who may have been a young widow and a daughter of Henry Wheeler, a pioneer settler of that section.

William Clifton enlisted as a soldier in the Continental Army of North Carolina while a resident of the Warrenton District. It is believed he may have been the same individual by that name who enlisted on December 24, 1777 in Cook's 9th Regiment commanded by Colonel John Williams and served three years as a sergeant.

About 1781, William, his wife and children, migrated to Georgia where they settled along the banks of the Great Ogeechee River at a place that later came to be known as "Clifton's Ferry", south of Scarboro in Effingham County. William received a bounty grant for his land, which he surveyed himself on November 3, 1783, and which describes his property as 50 acres of "corn land " surrounded by pine timber and water oaks, located along the south side of the Great Ogeechee below Scull's Creek and one mile above the Ferry.

William Clifton was employed by the state of Georgia as a District Surveyor. Early land plat records of this region bear his name. He was later certified by Brigadier General Samuel Elbert as a patriot for the Whig cause during the American Revolution. He received several more bounty grants from the state of Georgia including 125 acres in Effingham County in 1785, 150 acres in Burke County in 1789 and yet another 225 acres in Effingham in 1789. The original Clifton home place was located near the boundaries of the counties of Burke and Effingham and later Screven. The county lines have changed several times throughout the course of history.

William Clifton died about 1793. His remains were laid to rest on his property along the banks of the Great Ogeechee below Scarboro, Georgia. His widow Elizabeth and their children continued residing at Clifton's Ferry for several years. She received a widow's bounty grant of 200 acres of pine land along the waters of Horse Creek on July 7, 1794, and yet another grant of 200 acres in Bulloch County in 1804. On October 17, 1815, while a resident of Screven County, she deeded to her son Henry Clifton 100 acres of land upon which she lived as well as a feather bed and some furniture. She ordered 25 head of stock cattle to be divided among her sons. Elizabeth Clifton died about 1826 and was buried beside her husband in the old family graveyard. After her death the children sold their shares of the property they inherited to Simeon Banks."

There are several important pieces of information contained in the foregoing biography of William Clifton:

1. The tracts granted to William and John Clifton appear to have been nearest to present day Scarboro, Georgia, rather than at the mouth of Sculls Creek, which would place the Clifton's property much closer to Jesse Burleson's tract, perhaps within four miles.
2. Elizabeth Clifton, widow of William Clifton, received a grant of 200 acres of pine land along the waters of Horse Creek on July 7, 1794. Jesse Burleson's tract was also on Horse Creek, probably within a mile of Elizabeth's grant.

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3. When William and John Clifton moved from Onslow County to Bertie County in about 1772, they were accompanied by their sister, Elizabeth Clifton (the presumed name of Jesse Burleson's wife).
4. Onslow and Bertie Counties were also the home places of the Maner family in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century (Samuel Bostick married Mary Ann Maner in Ebenezer, Georgia in 1771).
5. Onslow County is believed to have been the birthplace Samuel and Richard Bostick and the location of their home during their youth.

From the foregoing information on William Clifton and his siblings, it seems very likely that Jesse Burleson married Elizabeth Clifton, sister of William and John. The close proximity and timing of the Clifton and Burleson land grants along the Great Ogeechee River in Georgia suggests a high probability of such kinship (*Time and Place Convergence*). Whether these Clifton's shared any kinship with the Beaufort Cliftons is unknown. It is also interesting to note that Richard and John Allbritton, who held tracts adjacent to Jesse Burleson on Horse Creek were also former residents of Onslow County during the same time period that William and John Clifton were in that county. Both families owned land along New River in Onslow County and likely were acquainted with one another. Richard Allbritton was noted as being a "saddler" on several deeds, the same occupation attributed to Richard Bostick on the 1788 indenture in Granville County South Carolina.

The names and dates of birth of Jesse's children are known with some certainty, as they were dutifully entered and preserved in the family bible of Jesse Burleson.<sup>191</sup> Family tradition has it that Jesse carried this bible with him throughout his service in the Revolutionary War. The bible entries indicate that Jesse died in 1822 at age 71, and his wife, Elizabeth, died in 1823 at the age of 73. There was no indication in the bible record that Jesse had been married more than once. Jesse's oldest child, Aaron, was born on July 28, 1779, whereas his second son, Daniel, was born October 26, 1785. Regrettably, no place names were recorded in the bible. The fact that Jesse named his firstborn son Aaron strongly supports the belief that Jesse was the son of Aaron Sr.

Jesse Burleson can be ascribed the highest probability of any of the supposed children of Aaron Burleson and Sarah Camp, because of his appearance in Effingham County in 1786, the same county where Aaron Burleson took out a grant in 1761. In that year Jesse received a grant of 200 acres in Effingham County Georgia<sup>192</sup>. Jesse first appeared in public records in Anson County North Carolina on two separate grant deeds in 1784 and 1785<sup>193</sup>. Prior to 1784 Jesse is believed to have served in the Revolutionary War<sup>194</sup>. Jesse's name appears on a roster of soldiers encamped at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78 as a private from North Carolina. It is a matter of public record that the 1<sup>st</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiments were stationed at Valley Forge that winter under the command of General Lachlin McInosh<sup>195</sup>. William Clifton is reported to have served in the 9<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment, so it is possible that he and Jesse were both encamped that winter at Valley Forge, possibly in the same regiment.

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<sup>191</sup> Burleson Family Association Bulletin

<sup>192</sup> Grant Book RRR, Page 374, Jesse Burleson. 200 acres Effingham County, Georgia (see BFA Bulletin Page 1015)

<sup>193</sup> Jesse Burleson: Anson County North Carolina, 1784, Deed Book 4, Page 368 and 1785, Deed Book M, Page 11.

<sup>194</sup> Jesse Burleson, Salisbury District, North Carolina, Pay Voucher No. 1886 (1784), BFA Bulletin, Page 184.

<sup>195</sup> BFA Bulletin, Page 200.



## Appendix A

William S. Burleson hypothesized that Jesse had been born in North Carolina and reared in Georgia<sup>196</sup>. He further theorized that, following his military service and his father's death, Jesse had "returned to North Carolina to settle his father's affairs". Whether Mr. Burleson's theory holds up or not, it is a fact that Jesse was in Anson County in 1784 and 1785, and that he returned to Effingham County Georgia in 1786.

If Jesse was at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777/78, he must have returned home sometime during the following summer in order for his son Aaron to be born in July 1779. Just where Jesse made his home during the war years is unknown. It seems certain that Jesse enlisted in the militia in North Carolina as he was recorded on a militia pay stub in that state in 1784. If he married Elizabeth Clifton, sister of William and John Clifton, they must have met somewhere in North Carolina, probably in Onslow or Bertie County. Following his mustering out in 1784, it appears that he purchased a 100-acre tract in Anson County, but he didn't set down roots as he sold that tract the following year. He and Elizabeth were probably drawn to Effingham County by the presence of her brothers in that locale. In the fall of 1786 Jesse resurfaced in Effingham County where he filed for a survey of 200 acres on Horse Creek.

A curious fact about the birth of Jesse's second son Daniel, suggests that Jesse and Elizabeth may have stopped over for a brief period in Beaufort District before moving across the river into Georgia. Some genealogists show Daniel's place of birth as being Turkey Hill Plantation in Charleston. This is not very likely, as the Turkey Hill Plantation near Charleston was under the ownership of a family that had no connections with the Burleson family. Moreover, the Burleson family had no known connections with anyone in Charleston during this period. If Daniel was born on the Turkey Hill Plantation, it is more likely that he was born on or near the Turkey Hill Plantation near Brighton, Beaufort District, which later was owned by Rueben Henry Tison. Daniel Burleson was reportedly born on October 25, 1785 according to his father's bible. See Figure A-4 for the location of Turkey Hill at Brighton.

Keeping in mind that virtually nothing is known of the whereabouts of Aaron Sr. following his purchase of the 200-acre tract in St. Matthews Parish in 1761, it is possible that he may have continued to live in that area for the next 15 to 20 years. The location of his land in Effingham is unknown. Effingham County Georgia abuts Beaufort District South Carolina, separated only by the Savannah River. The Sisters Ferry was located on the Savannah River immediately west of Robertville, South Carolina, and was used as a primary transportation route for travel into Effingham County. It is probable that Aaron Sr.'s tract was located in easy distance to the Robertville area. Samuel Bostick, who initially settled in the Black Swamp area in about 1770, later secured a grant near Tuckasee King Landing in Effingham County near the Sisters Ferry. Samuel also married his wife, Mary Ann Maner, at the Ebenezer Church in Effingham County in 1771.<sup>197</sup> It is very possible that Aaron Sr. and his family were acquainted with Samuel Bostick and his family (*Place and Time Convergence*).

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<sup>196</sup> Ibid.

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It is believed that Richard Bostick and Samuel Bostick migrated from Onslow County to Black Swamp as part of the larger migration involving Maners, Staffords and Tisons. It is likely that Valentine Bostick had died sometime around 1767 in Onslow County, and Richard, being only nine years old, would need the protection and care of an older brother. It is probable that Richard lived with Samuel and his wife, Mary Ann Maner, following their marriage in Effingham County in 1771. It is also possible that a sister of Jesse Burleson named Mary Hannah Burleson<sup>198</sup> moved to Black Swamp or Effingham area following the death of their father, Aaron, in 1783.

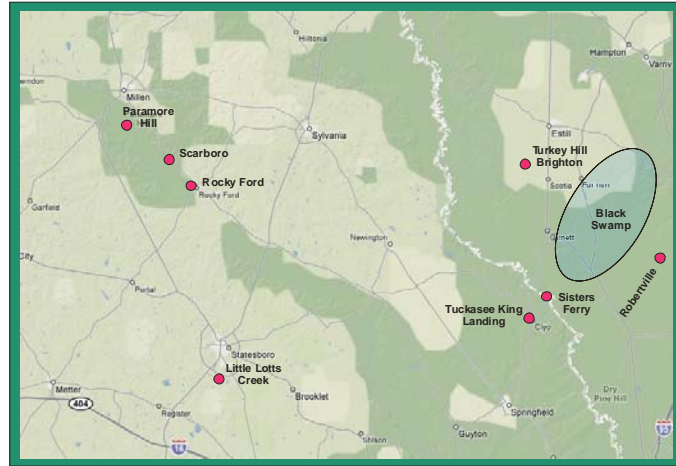


FIGURE A-4  
Effingham/Beaufort Area Map

According to Caroline Price Wilson, Richard's wife Hannah or Mary Hannah appeared on deed documents in Effingham County. Since Richard's first wife is known to have died in about 1790, any deeds with her name must have occurred before 1786. Richard Bostick first appeared in Beaufort records in February 1786 when he filed for a grant of 328 acres on Black Swamp. It is very possible that Richard met Miss Burleson while he was living with his brother Samuel in Effingham County. They may have initially purchased land in Effingham County before moving across into Beaufort District. As seen in Figure A-4 the distances between Black Swamp, Tuckasee King and Horse Creek are quite close, no more than 40 miles between each location.

It is interesting to note that there was a Hannah Bostick living adjacent to Richard Bostick in St. Peters Parish in the 1810 census records. This Hannah was reported as head of household and being between the age of 16 and 25 years. Also living in the household was another female between 16 and 25, a male between the age of 16 and 25 and three females under age 10. These other persons in Hannah's household would appear to be a young husband and wife with three young daughters. Per Caroline Price Wilson's reference to deeds in Effingham County, it would appear that Richard's first wife was named Hannah or Mary Hannah. It is very likely that the Hannah Bostick who appeared on the 1810 census was a daughter of Richard Bostick and Hannah.

There were no further listings in subsequent census records for Hannah Bostick, but there was a Hannah Deloach listed in the 1830 and 1850 census. The 1850 census shows Hannah Deloach living adjacent to Benjamin R. Bostick. The head of household was James Deloach, aged 21, born in South Carolina, planter, land valued at \$1,500. Hannah Deloach was the only other member of the household, being 60 years old and born in South Carolina. In the 1830 census

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Hannah Deloach was shown as the head of household aged between 40 and 50. The only other person in the household was a young female between 10 and 15 years.

There were three separate LDS family history records reporting Hannah Bostick Breland being married to David Deloach. Only one of these records appears to fit the biographic facts known about Hannah Bostick. That record reported David Deloach having been born in 1777 to Michael Deloach and unknown wife, married to Hannah Bostick Breland in about 1810. Based on the existence of these records and the close living proximity of Hannah Bostick to Richard Bostick in 1810, and Hannah Deloach to Benjamin R. Bostick in 1850, it is believed that Hannah Bostick and Hannah Deloach were the same individuals. It is further believed, because of the close living proximity of Hannah to Richard and Benjamin Robert, that Hannah was Richard's daughter and Benjamin's half-sister. Based on Hannah Deloach's reported age of 60 years in 1850, it is believed that Hannah was the youngest child born to Richard Bostick and Mary Hannah in 1789.

The use of the name, Breland, suggests that Hannah had been previously married to a man with the surname of Breland. There were several Breland families in Beaufort during this period, most of whom traced their roots to Pitt County, North Carolina. If Hannah had married a Breland before marrying David Deloach, that marriage would have been sometime before 1830 when Hannah was apparently widowed and using the name of Deloach. The young woman living with Hannah during the 1830 census very likely was a daughter from the marriage with the unknown Mr. Breland. Given this scenario, it is very likely that Hannah was married to Mr. Breland during the 1820 census interval, as there was no record for a David Deloach in that census, but there were several Brelands. She very likely was newly widowed from David Deloach in 1830, and probably pregnant with his son, assuming that James Deloach was the son of David Deloach and Hannah Bostick Breland. It is possible that James Deloach was actually Hannah's grandson by the unknown daughter who appeared in the 1830 census, but that daughter would have had to have married a Deloach. Cousins marrying cousins? Most likely, James was Hannah's son.

There was no young female reported in Richard's household in 1800, so it is unknown where Hannah may have been at that time. It is possible that Richard and his second wife, Mary Harriet Robert, agreed to establish Hannah in her own household and to accommodate a niece or nephew of Richard's first wife in that same household in 1810, when Hannah would have been about 20 years old. It is also possible that the young family were a Burleson cousin, and child of Jesse Burleson.

If Daniel Burleson was born near Brighton in October 1785, it would suggest that Jesse and Elizabeth were living within a couple of miles from the tract of land granted to Richard Bostick in February 1786. Refer to Figure XX for an illustration of the approximate location of the Turkey Hill Plantation and the tract granted to Richard Bostick. Jesse filed his plat map on Horse Creek in Effingham County in February 1787. It is possible that he continued to live near Brighton for a year or more between 1785 and 1787, giving him ample opportunity to become acquainted with Richard Bostick and to introduce him to his sister, Mary Hannah Burleson (*Time and Place Convergence*). In fact, they could have become acquainted much earlier in Effingham County.

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Through the foregoing analysis it has been shown that Aaron Burleson Sr. may have continued to live in Effingham County and that several more children may have been born and raised in Effingham County. The only thing known with certainty is that Aaron was granted two tracts in Georgia between 1757 and 1761, and that his widow was granted administration rights in a Wilkes County court in March 1784. In 1777 Wilkes County was created from a portion of St. Paul's Parish. Its southern boundary appears to have incorporated Aaron's Williams Creek property. This would suggest that Aaron retained his 200-acre tract on Williams Creek until near his death in 1783 and that he probably died in Wilkes County. Just where Aaron's family lived between 1757 and 1783 is uncertain. Where his widow and children continued to live following his death is also uncertain. By 1783 Aaron would likely have been between 60 and 70 years old. Since Aaron and Mary Walker's first child wasn't born until 1770, it is probable that Aaron and Sarah Camp had additional children during the 1760's. Some of those children may have still been living at home at the time of Aaron's death in 1783. What became of those children after Aaron's death is unknown. Whether Aaron continued to own and utilize the Effingham County tract during the 1760's and 1770's is also unknown. Whether he may have acquired additional properties is also unknown.

### **Daniel Burleson**

Perhaps the strongest indication of a possible kinship connection between Richard Bostick and Mary Hannah Burleson may be discovered through Jesse's son, Daniel Burleson. Aside from the suggestion that Daniel was born at Turkey Hill Plantation near Brighton, it is particularly noteworthy that he married Sarah Hamilton McKenzie. Rebecca Mary Jane McKinzie, the daughter of Sarah Hamilton and her first husband, William McKinzie, married Reuben Henry Tyson. Reuben Henry Tyson was a descendent of the Tysons who immigrated with the Staffords and Maners from New Hanover County North Carolina in about 1768. Reuben Henry Tyson later purchased Turkey Hill Plantation near Brighton as his primary place of residency. Whether there was any connection between Daniel Burleson's having been reported as being born at Turkey Hill Plantation and then later marrying the mother-in-law of its future owner is uncertain.

Daniel would have been reared in his father's household until about age of 21, which means he would have lived in Effingham County and later in Screven or Burke County until about 1806. He married Sarah Hamilton McKenzie in about 1811, probably in Beaufort, South Carolina. This begs the question as to the attraction that would bring Daniel Burleson from Screven County to Beaufort District. Could the attraction have been that he had an uncle (Richard Bostick) and cousins (Hannah, John R. and Jacob S.) living in Black Swamp? Might his sister, Salathiel, also have been living with his cousin, Hannah Bostick in 1810?

Sarah Hamilton was the daughter of Thomas Hamilton and Rebecca Dixon. Rebecca Dixon was the daughter of Thomas Dixon and Elizabeth Hyrne Smith. Rebecca's sister, Elizabeth Dixon, married John Robert, Richard Bostick's future father-in-law by his second and third wives. Another sister, Mary Hyrne Dixon married Elias Jaudon, whose mother was Elizabeth Robert, aunt of John Robert. There is much more presented on the Smith, Dixon, Robert and Jaudon families in later chapters. But already it can be seen that Daniel Burleson had intermarried with

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a family that had prior intermarriage connections with Richard Bostick. Daniel's new mother-in-law was the sister of the wife of Richard Bostick's father-in-law, John Robert.

Moreover, Sarah Hamilton's deceased first husband, William McKenzie, was the father of John R. Bostick's wife, Elizabeth Ann McKenzie, by his first wife, Elizabeth Ann Singleton. To even further compound these matters of intermarriage, Richard Bostick's third wife, Elizabeth Ann Robert, was previously married to Thomas Benjamin Singleton, the brother of Elizabeth Ann Singleton who had married William McKinzie. Intermarriage also joined William Daniel McKinzie to Richard Bostick's daughter, Elizabeth Bostick. William Daniel McKenzie is believed to have been the son of Sarah Hamilton and William McKinzie.

The intermarriage of Daniel Burleson with Sarah Hamilton McKenzie is unlikely to have been a chance occurrence. Daniel had been raised all of his young life along the upper reaches of the Great Ogeechee River in Effingham County, an area which later became part of Burke County, near the small community of Scarboro. Daniel's father, Jesse, was a yeoman planter on the river for many years, with no known connections with the landed gentry of Beaufort District. Sarah Hamilton McKinzie, on the other hand came from a rather prosperous family with a very rich heritage. Her great grandfather had been Thomas Landgrave Smith II, one of the most influential men in colonial South Carolina during the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and considered to have been the last of the colonial royalty. From all accounts, Daniel had not been previously married. Sarah Hamilton McKenzie had been married for almost eleven years when her first husband died, leaving her with at least two young children, plus she was four years older than Daniel. The author believes that this marriage might have been arranged through the assistance and influence of Richard Bostick and his second wife, Mary Harriet Robert. By 1811 when Daniel and Sarah's marriage took place, there had been numerous prior instances of intermarriage between the Robert, Bostick, McKenzie, Singleton and Dixon families; including John R. Bostick, who may have been Daniel's first cousin, and Elizabeth Ann Bostick, John R. Bostick's half sister.

There were many factors linking Richard and Samuel Bostick to Jesse Burleson's family which seem to be beyond chance:

1. Jesse's wife, Elizabeth Clifton, lived in Onslow County, North Carolina, during the same period that Samuel and Richard Bostick are believed to have been in residence.
2. Jesse's son, Daniel, is believed to have been born at Brighton, Beaufort District within a few miles from the place where Richard Bostick purchased his first tract of land on Black Swamp.
3. Jesse's grants on Horse Creek were within fifteen miles of Tuckasee King Landing where Samuel Bostick held grants and presumably raised his younger brother Richard Bostick.
4. Aaron Burleson is known to have taken out a land grant in Effingham County in 1761, and likely lived there during parts of the 1760s and 1770s.
5. Aaron Burleson and Sarah Camp are believed to have had several more children after they moved to Georgia in 1757, some of whom would have been of an age to have been "Miss Burroughson".
6. The names of Burleson and Burroughson are almost identical, phonetically.



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7. Richard may have married in Effingham County before moving to Black Swamp in 1786, and would have been in close proximity to any of Jesse's siblings who may have come to live with him following his father's death in 1783.
8. The intermarriage between Daniel Burleson and Sarah Hamilton McKenzie has many connections to the Robert, McKenzie, Singleton, Dixon and Bostick families.

Based on this overwhelming evidence the author believes that only one logical conclusion can be drawn, and that is that "Miss Burroughson" was Mary Hannah Burleson, daughter of Aaron Burleson and Sarah Camp.

### Bourquin

The name Bourquin has virtually no phonetic similarity and very limited graphic similarity with the name Burroughson. Yet there are some sociologic and geographic factors associated with the Bourquin family of South Carolina and Georgia worth exploring. Three brothers emigrated from Bern, Switzerland to Purrysburg, South Carolina via England in about 1733. Jean Baptiste, Henri Francois and Benedict Bourquin and their wives and children are believed to have been part of the earliest settlers to Purrysburg.<sup>199</sup> Over the first fifteen years they received several land grants in the Purrysburg Township. However, by 1745 Henry and Benedict began petitioning for new grants in Georgia in the Little Ogeechee River and Medway areas just southwest of Savannah. They and other members of their families received many grants in this area over the next 50 years and by 1800 were some of the largest and most prosperous plantation owners in the region. Jean Baptiste remained in Granville County and his descendants flourished and prospered in that area throughout the remainder of the 18<sup>th</sup> and into the 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

While Purrysburg, itself, proved somewhat of an unsuccessful commercial venture for the Lords Proprietors, the industrious and skilled French Huguenot immigrants who got their start in this early colony went on to be some of the more successful families in the region. The Bourquin descendants were no exception.

There are two things worth noting about the Bourquin descendants when contrasted to Richard Bostick and Miss Burroughson:

1. Benedict and Henry Francois left several offspring in the Savannah Georgia Region who might fit "Miss Burroughsons" age and gender requirements. Although no daughter of a Bourquin being of an age to marry Richard could be identified from genealogical records, there were several sons who might have married and might have had daughters of an appropriate age whose families are undocumented.
2. The fact that the Bourquins were of Huguenot descent might explain the ease with which Richard Bostick appears to have been accepted into the Robert family when he married two daughters of John Robert.

Another connection between Samuel and Richard Bostick and the Purrysburg Huguenots was Abraham Ravot, who lived next to Samuel in Effingham County. Gabriel Francis Ravot and his son, Arbraham, both lived in Purrysburg for several years in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, and

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<sup>199</sup> To Make This Land Their Own, Arlin C. Migliazzo, 1951, pp. 71-72.

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both were recorded as being “tanners” by trade.<sup>200</sup> Richard Bostick was reported to have been a “saddler” in his early days. Saddlers relied on tanners for their supply of raw materials. It is quite probable, while Richard was acquiring his apprenticeship and practicing as a saddler in the 1770’s and 80’s, that he became acquainted with Abraham Ravot. It is also possible that Richard may have become acquainted with the Bourquins of Savannah through his acquaintance with Abraham Ravot.

The following is a descendents list of four generations of Bourquins in South Carolina and Georgia, which notes potential sources for Miss Burroughson originating from within the Bourquin lineage.

1-Abraham BOURQUIN (abt 1619-abt 1687)  
sp-Ann Margaruite RAIGUEL (abt 1620-Unknown)  
.. 2-Jean Jacques BOURQUIN (abt 1660-abt 1732)  
.. sp-Marie FRANCOISE (abt 1672-aft 1720)  
.... 3-Jean Baptiste BOURQUIN (abt 1692-4 Dec 1783)  
.... sp-Susanne SUNIER (abt 1692-aft 1731)  
..... 4-Abraham BOURQUIN (26 Oct 1725-)  
..... 4-Mary Anne BOURQUIN (1 Sep 1727-abt 1771)  
..... 4-John Lewis BOURQUIN (20 Apr 1729-22 Nov 1798)  
..... sp-Margaret Jane DUNHAM (-)  
..... 4-Dr. Henry Lewis BOURQUIN (7 May 1731-5 Dec 1774)  
..... sp-Henrietta BOURQUIN (abt 1737-11 Aug 1797)  
.... 3-Henri Francois BOURQUIN (1694-1778)  
.... sp-Susanne Marie SUNIER (abt 1703-bef 1775)  
..... 4-Anne Marie BOURQUIN (8 Nov 1726-abt 1730)  
..... 4-Susanne Marie BOURQUIN (16 Sep 1728-Oct 1771)  
..... sp-David HUGUENIN (-)  
..... 4-Henri Francois BOURQUIN (12 Nov 1730-)  
..... 4-Mary Ann BOURQUIN (14 Feb 1731-15 Aug 1765)  
..... sp-John MOREL (-)  
..... 4-Frances BOURQUIN (abt 1733-bef 1797)  
..... sp-John FOX (-)  
..... 4-Catherine BOURQUIN (abt 1735-bef 1795)  
..... sp-Unknown WAHLBURGER (-)  
..... sp-John KEALL (-)  
..... sp-Dr. Frederick REHM (-)  
..... 4-Henrietta BOURQUIN (abt 1737-11 Aug 1797)  
..... sp-Dr. Henry Lewis BOURQUIN (7 May 1731-5 Dec 1774)  
..... This line shown above  
..... sp-William JONES (-)  
.... 3-Anne Marie Cleophee BOURQUIN (7 Jan 1706-)  
.... 3-Benedict BOURQUIN (9 Apr 1712-Sep 1770)  
.... sp-Marie Madeleine BOURQUIN (abt 1712-abt 1733)  
..... 4-Marianne BOURQUIN (11 Mar 1733-)  
.... sp-Jane Judith CHATELAIN (2 Jun 1719-1 Mar 1799)  
..... 4-John BOURQUIN (abt 1734-bef 1811)<sup>201</sup>  
..... 4-Henry BOURQUIN (abt 1736-abt 1819)  
..... sp-Unknown UNKNOWN (-)  
..... 4-Unknown Dau. 2 BOURQUIN (abt 1742-bef 1811)  
..... sp-Unknown GOODALE (-)

<sup>200</sup> To Make This Land Their Own, Arlin C. Migliazzo, 1951, pp. .

<sup>201</sup> Potential fathers of Mary Hannah Bostick.

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..... 4-Unknown Dau. 1 BOURQUIN (abt 1746-bef 1811)  
..... sp-Unknown WHITE (-)  
..... 4-Mary Ann BOURQUIN (abt 1748-Dec 1806 or 1760-Unkown)<sup>202</sup>  
..... 4-Susanna BOURQUIN (abt 1749-aft 1825)  
..... sp-James PAPOT (-)  
..... 4-Benedict BOURQUIN (abt 1753-6 Dec 1821)  
..... sp-Hametal FOX (-)  
..... 4-David Francis BOURQUIN (8 May 1759-11 Jan 1825)  
..... sp-Elizabeth FOX (-)  
..... sp-Mrs. Ann SEMMES (-)  
..... sp-Margaret THOMTON (-)  
..... 4-Mary Hannah BOURQUIN (1760-1790)  
.... 3-Susanne Marie BOURQUIN (13 May 1714-)

### Burroughs/Burroson

It would be remiss not to mention that there were other families with the surname of Burroughs and Burroson living in Georgia during the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. However, research into these families showed that they arrived in Georgia far too late to have provided a potential connection to Miss Burroughson. One instance was found of the surname of Burroson in Jackson County at the extreme northern end of Georgia, but other records suggest the name was actually Burson, plus Jackson County was considered too far removed from Richard Bostick to be considered. The Burroughs family of Savannah appears to have originated from a single immigrant, Benjamin Burroughs, who was born on Long Island, New York in 1779 and arrived in Savannah in 1795. Although Benjamin Burroughs and his descendents made an indelible mark on Georgia history, they arrive much too late to have contributed to Miss Burroughson.

### Brinson

There was also a family named Brinson, which lived in Onslow County North Carolina during the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century during the same time period that Valentine Bostick lived in that County. The original immigrant of this family to Onslow County appears to have been Adam Brinson and his wife, Sarah Sterling. Sarah's family appears to have been from Surry County Virginia, the same county in which Valentine Bostick was granted land in the 1740's. Valentine was later granted 400 acres on Sterlings Swamp in Liberty County Georgia in 1754, which had been formerly granted to Mr. Sterling. Some members of this Brinson family appear to have migrated to Burke County Georgia where they were granted lands in 1790's and early 1800's. While there were overlaps between the Bostick and Brinson families in location and time, there does not appear to have been anything other than coincidence connecting these two families.

### Burrington

20Jun1751 – On Thursday last **Mr. Thomas Burrington**, attorney at law, was married to Miss. Katy Reid, a young lady of beauty and merit and with a handsome fortune. (Monday, June 24, 1751) (South Carolina Gazette, Charleston)<sup>203</sup>

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<sup>202</sup> Possible candidate for Mary Hannah Bostick.

<sup>203</sup> Marriage Notices of the South Carolina Gazette, A. S. Salley, 1902, p. 15.

## Appendix A

General Biographical Note: During the colonial era of Georgia, there were several strong lawyers practicing in Georgia. They included Thomas Burrington, who died in 1767; Samuel Farley, under whom James Jackson studied, became a Tory who commanded a redoubt at the Storm of Savannah, and was exiled to Nassau; William Gibbons, one of the "Sons of Liberty" who became Speaker of the House; the gigantic Thomas Gibbons, another Tory, mayor of Savannah after the war who moved to New Jersey and New York to become a party in the famous Supreme Court case of Gibbons vs. Ogden; John Glen, who was judge of the Eastern Circuit after being Chief Justice of Georgia; William Stephens, who outlived his signing the Loyalty Oath to the Crown to become U.S. District Judge for Georgia; and Robert Hamilton, a Tory who died during the Revolution.

15Apr1757 - **Thomas Burrington** Clerk of the Assembly appointed by Govr. [Governor] Ellis 15 April 1757. Salary from 20£. to 25£ Sterling paid here. Perquisites about 50 to 55£ the whole about 100£ Sterling pr. [per] annum.

19Jul1757 – Royal Statute adopted at Savannah for establishment of a Watch in Town of Savannah naming ten Superintendents of the Watch including: **Thomas Burrington**, Noble Wimberly Jones, William Ewen, William Russell, William Spencer, John Morel, Thomas Rasberry, Robert Bolton, John Graham and Richard Milledge.<sup>204</sup>

Aug1764 – Granted to **Thomas Burrington**, 100 acres in St. George's Parish.<sup>205</sup>

Nov1764 – **Thomas Burrington, Esq.**, elected to General Council from town and district of Halifax [Burke County] in the Parish of St. George.<sup>206</sup>

Dec1764 – Read a petition of Thomas Burrington, Esq. setting forth that he had had land granted him in family [head]right but had yet six negroes for whom he had not obtained land. Therefore praying for 300 acres on the north side of Great Ogechee joining land run out for Daniel O'Cain and also 200 acres, on purchase, to adjoin the said 300 acres.<sup>207</sup>

Jul1765 – Granted to **Thomas Burrington**, 300 acres and 200 acres in St. George's Parish. [probably the land referenced in petition dated Dec1764.

Aug1765 – Read a petition of **John Fox** setting forth that he had had four hundred acres of land granted him and was desirous to obtain an additional tract having a wife and two children and 11 negroes. Therefore praying for 400 acres on the cross swamp between the River Coonochee and Ogechee to join the upper line of land there granted to **Thomas Burrington, Esq.**<sup>208</sup>

Sep1766 – Read petition of **Thomas Burrington, Esq.** setting forth that he had lately purchased 400 acres of land upon Rocky Creek in St. George's Parish heretofore ordered to Charles Gee. Therefore praying for 400 acres on purchase adjoining the said purchased land on Rocky Creek aforesaid.<sup>209</sup>

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<sup>204</sup> Statutes Enacted by the Royal Legislature of Georgia, p. 213.

<sup>205</sup> The Colonial Records of the state of Georgia, Vol 9, p. 203.

<sup>206</sup> The Colonial Records of the state of Georgia, Vol 14, p. 137.

<sup>207</sup> The Colonial Records of the state of Georgia, Vol 9, pp. 243-4.

<sup>208</sup> Proceedings and Minutes of the Governor and Council, p. 391.

<sup>209</sup> The Colonial Records of the state of Georgia, Vol 9, p. 610.

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27May1767 - Paper: Georgia Gazette.; Date: 1767-05-27; Iss: 192; Page: [2]; Yesterday died, at Mr. John Wereat's, near this place, **Thomas Burrington, Esq.** Attorney at Law.

Jun1768 – Read a petition of John Wereat setting forth that he had under his care **Thomas Burrington** an infant (son of Thomas Burrington, Esq., deceased) for whose benefit he would gladly obtain a tract of land therefore praying for 500 acres in trust for the said infant to be laid out on the north side of the Great Satilla to adjoin the upper line of land to be granted in Carolina to Jonathan Belton.<sup>210</sup>

*Excerpt from LWT of Lachlan McGillivaray (1767) -- Item, I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Burrington** (daughter of **Thomas Burrington**, deceased of Savannah, attorney-at-law), the sum of one hundred pounds sterling, to be laid out at my decease in female negroes for the use of the aforesaid Elizabeth Burrington; and my will is, that in the case the said Elizabeth Burrington shall die before me, the said one hundred pounds sterling shall go to her youngest brother now living **Thomas Burrington [Jr.]**, to him and his heirs for ever.*

*Although the Burrington surname has close similarities to Burroughson, no evidence was found to indicate that Thomas Burrington but one daughter named Elizabeth. Thomas Burrington appears to have been of the appropriate age and to have lived in the Savannah region. However, land grant records indicated that in Apr1757 he had a wife and only two children. In that same month Thomas Burrington applied for a town lot at Hardwicke on the right of an infant son named Gilbert, which petition was denied. Thomas Burrington died at the home of John Wereat near Savannah on 27May1767. In Jun1768 John Wereat applied for a grant of 500 acres on the Great Satilla in the name of his ward, Thomas Burrington Jr. Aside from the grant petition of Apr 1757 in which Burrington stated he had two children, and the bequest to a daughter named Elizabeth in Lachlan McGillivaray's LWT, there was no other record found indicating the birth of any other children. The only records found for any children of Thomas Burrington were those of his two sons: Gilbert and Thomas Jr, and a daughter named Elizabeth. Consequently, there is no basis for assuming that he had a daughter named Mary Hannah, who later married Richard Bostick. Clearly, Thomas Burrington was of the proper age to have had a daughter the presumed age of Richard Bostick's 1<sup>st</sup> wife, but the record evidence augurs against her existence.*

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<sup>210</sup> The Colonial Records of the state of Georgia, Vol 10, p. 513-4.



## Appendix B

### Last Will and Testament Timothy Brownson (1702-1766)

Transcribed by Robert Atteberry, Carmichael, CA

In the name of God Amen

**To all people** who these presents may concern no he that I the signer and sealer of this instrument do make this my last will and testament being in perfect health and excellent mind and memory knowing that I am bound to be willing to distribute and divide in the most just and equitable manner the worldly substance which God has graciously given me among the proper heirs thereof I do therefore will, order and direct the processes and manner following:

**Imprimis**, I give up and consecrate my soul to God who gave it and commit my body to the Earth from which it was formed and after my funeral charges are defrayed as touching my worldly substance I will and bequeath as followeth:

**Item** I will and bequeath unto my well beloved wife Abigail one third part of all the movable estate I am possessed of at my decease and one third part of the improvement of my land which is left in my possession at my decease not devised or conveyed by deed to the children;

**Item** I will and bequeath to my loving and beloved child Huldah, my firstborn child, 5 pounds of lawful money in addition to all I have heretofore given her;

**Item** I will and bequeath to my oldest son Amos 20 schillings lawful money in addition to what I have already given which I estimate at 50 pounds of lawful money;

**Item** I will and bequeath to my beloved son Timothy 20 schillings lawful money in addition to that I have already given him which I also estimate at 50 pounds lawful money;

**Item** I will, give and bequeath to my beloved son Richard 51 pounds lawful money not having devised him his part by deed of 1/8 of the aforementioned land I have done;

**Item** I will and bequeath to my beloved son Gideon one pound lawful money in addition to what I have given him by deed of gift;

**Item** I will and bequeath to my beloved son Nathan the sum of 20 schillings lawful money and no more having already laid out full his grant and a liberal education;

**Item** I will and bequeath to my beloved son Asa 20 schillings lawful money having given him already the benefit of a trade before bought hereafter is mentioned;

**Item** I will and bequeath unto my beloved son Eli the sum of 51 pounds lawful money not having deeded land to him as said above named part to Timothy and given I have done;

**Item**, the above \_\_\_\_ one \_\_\_\_ be and after that reserving the third above-mentioned to my beloved wife Abigail and each child having received as above that all and with all of the overplus be equally divided among all the above named children except Nathan and Huldah who are to have no grant but what is presented above;

**This I declare** to be my last will and testament revoking and disannulling all former wills and I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my beloved wife Abigail and my sons Amos and Timothy to be executors of this my will and testament. Dated and sealed this 13th day of June 1763 in the third year of his Majesty's reign.

Signed and sealed in presence of

Timothy Brownson

witnesses: Jonathan Lee, Love Lee, Elizabeth Lee

## Appendix C

### Descendants of William Denham

- 1 William Denham d: Abt. 1720 in St. Pauls Parish, Colleton Co. S.C.
- 2 Jacob Donnom d: Jan 1745/46 in St. Pauls Parish, Colleton Co.S.C.
- +Margaret d: Bef. Jan 1745/46
- 3 James Donnom b: Abt. 1720 in Willton, Colleton Co. S.C. d: May 1776 in , Colleton, SC
- +unknown 1st wife d: Bef. 1757
- 4 James Donnom b: in , Colleton, SC d: 26 Oct 1766 in , Liberty, GA
- +Mary
- 4 Sarah Parshena Donnom d: Aft. 1774
- +Thomas Maxwell m: 1765 in Midway Congregational Church, Liberty, GA, d: Aft. 1774
- \*2nd Husband of Sarah Parshena Donnom:
- +John Graves m: 14 Mar 1790 in Liberty Co. GA
- 4 Joseph Donnom b: in , Colleton, SC d: Mar 1789 in Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina
- +Sussanah d: Aft. 1789
- 4 William Donnom b: Bef. 1757 d: 09 Nov 1779
- 4 Mary Donnom b: Abt. 1752 in Colleton Co. S. C. d: May 1768 in Colleton Co. S. C.
- \*2nd Wife of James Donnom:
- +Mary Bee b: Abt. 1725 in , Colleton, SC m: 10 Jan 1757 in Colleton, SC d: 01 Feb 1765 in , Colleton, SC
- 4 Rebecca Bee Donnom b: Abt. 1760 in , Beaufort, SC d: 26 Jun 1796 in Charleston, Charleston, SC
- +John Edwards m: 14 Jun 1783 in , Colleton, SC
- 4 **Elizabeth Donnom** b: 02 Feb in , Beaufort, SC d: 04 Apr 1775 in Newport, Liberty Co., Georgia
- +**John Martin** m: 06 Nov 1760 in Midway Congregational Church, Liberty, GA d: Dec 1772 in St. Johns Parrish, Georgia
- \*2nd Husband of Elizabeth Donnom:
- +**Nathan Brownson** m: Aft. 1772 d: 18 Nov 1796 in Liberty Co. GA
- 4 Susannah Donnom b: Abt. 1760
- \*3rd Wife of James Donnom:
- +Jane C Verdier m: 17 Mar 1774 in Colleton, SC
- 3 William Dunham b: Abt. 1720 in Willtown, Colleton, S.C. d: 22 Dec 1769 in Sunbury, Liberty, GA.
- +Mary Hendrick m: Abt. 1749 in , Colleton, SC d: Abt. 1755 in Willtown, Colleton, SC
- 4 John Dunham b: 1750 in Willtown, Colleton, SC d: 1816 in McIntosh, GA.
- +Sarah P. Clancy m: in , Liberty, GA d: Aft. 1816
- 4 William Dunham b: 1752 in Willtown, Colleton, SC d: 1783 in , Liberty, GA
- +Mary Baisden
- \*2nd Wife of William Dunham:
- +Mary Taylor m: 11 Mar 1756 in Midway Congregational Church, Liberty, GA d: 1794 in , Liberty, GA
- 4 Charles Dunham b: 02 Jan 1757 in , Liberty, GA
- +Ann d: 1818 in , Liberty, GA
- 4 Hannah Dunham b: 24 Apr 1763 in , Liberty, GA d: 01 Jul 1792 in , Liberty, GA
- +William Way m: 25 Jan 1787 in , Liberty, GA d: 08 Sep 1790 in , Liberty, GA
- \*2nd Husband of Hannah Dunham:

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+James Cole m: 23 Feb 1792 in , Liberty, GA  
 4 Martha Dunham b: 10 Oct 1759 in , Liberty, GA  
 +James Carter m: 20 Feb 1775 in Midway Congregational Church, Liberty, GA  
 4 Mary Hester Dunham b: 23 Apr 1758 in , Liberty, GA  
 4 Paul James Dunham b: 1761 in , Liberty, GA d: 10 Dec 1791 in ,  
 Liberty, GA  
 3 John Donnom b: Abt. 1720 in Willton, Colleton Co. S.C.  
 3 Daniel Dunham b: Abt. 1725 in , Colleton, SC d: 31 Jan 1770 in , Liberty, GA  
 +Elizabeth Osgood b: Abt. 1731 in , Colleton, SC m: Abt. 1752 in , Colleton, SC d: 18  
 Feb 1770 in , Liberty, GA  
 4 Elizabeth Dunham b: 07 Jan 1756 in , Liberty, GA d: 16 Feb 1792 in ,  
 Liberty, GA  
 +William Baker m: 27 Mar 1771 in , Liberty, GA  
 4 Mary Dunham b: Oct 1757 in , Liberty, GA  
 4 John Donnom b: 1759 in , Liberty, GA  
 4 Sarah Donnom b: 20 May 1761 in , Liberty, GA  
 4 Dorcas Donnom b: 1762 in , Liberty, GA  
 4 Daniel Dunham b: 15 Nov 1769 in , Liberty, GA  
 3 Jonathan Donom b: 1725 in Colleton County, SC d: Bef. Dec 1775 in , Colleton  
 County, SC  
 +Margaret Ferguson [Dunwoody?] m: 06 Jun 1754 in , Colleton, SC d: 1803 in ,  
 Liberty Co. Georgia  
 4 James Donom b: Aft. 1754  
 4 Isaac Donom b: Aft. 1757  
 +Sarah Crawford m: 02 Mar 1784 in Waxhaws, , South Carolina  
 4 Sarah Donom b: Aft. 1757  
 3 Sarah Donnom b: Aft. 1731 in Colleton County, SC d: Jan 1762 in PonPon,  
 Colleton, SC  
 +Samuel Lowle d: Mar 1759 in , Colleton County, SC  
 \*2nd Husband of Sarah Donnom:  
 +John Mitchell m: 10 Mar 1761 in , Colleton, SC  
 3 Jacob Donnom b: Aft. 1731 in , Colleton County, SC d: May 1770 in , Granville  
 County, SC  
 +Catherine Kirk m: 10 Jun 1766 in , Colleton, SC

## Appendix D

### Last Will and Testament of John Martin (~1740 to Dec1772)

Transcribed by Robert Atteberry at Carmichael, CA 4Jan2015.

Georgia,

In the name of God Amen, I **John Martin** of the parish of St. John in the province of Georgia being of sound and perfect mind and memory thanks be to God and calling to mind the mortality of my body that it is appointed for all men once to die do hereby make my last will and testament revoking and disannulling all other wills by me heretofore made;

**Imprimis** I bequeath my soul to God that gave it in hopes of his acceptance of the same through the merits of his son Jesus Christ my only savior and redeemer and my body to the Earth to be buried in a decent Christian manner at the discretion of my loving wife and my executors here in after named, as to my worldly estate which it hath pleased God to end down me with in this life I will and dispose of the same in the manner and form following, vizt.,

**Item:** my will is that my just debts and funeral charges may be first paid by my executors and that my said executors do sell my lands south of **Altahama River** containing 900 acres of adjoining land of **Thomas Hutchinson** and **Daniel Blake Esquire** and land of **Gideon Dowse** and **John Stacy** to the best advantage and the money arising from such sale to go toward the payment of my just debts and funeral charges and whatever some may afterwards remain unpaid of the said debts and charges my will is that such some may be paid out of that part of my movable estate here and bequeath to my son **James Dunham Martin** and I do hereby give my said executors full power and authority to make good and sufficient titles of the said land to the purchaser or purchasers of it;

**Item** I give and devise unto my nephew **James Martin Gibbons** son of **Sarah Gibbons** my other tract of land on the South side of **Altahama River** containing 200 acres joining lands of **Gideon Dowse** and **Michael Schatz(?)** to him the said **James Martin Gibbons** son of **Sarah Gibbons** and his heirs forever;

**Item** I give and devise unto my loving son **James Dunham Martin** all my lands in **St. John's Parish** and swamp commonly known by the name of the **Boyn Swamp** containing in the whole about 1500 acres to him the said **James Dunham Martin** and his heirs forever subject nevertheless to the following restrictions and encumbrances that is to say that my wife **Elizabeth Martin** shall have the use of all the described land as well to plant as (unreadable) pasturage on a certain tract of 250 acres which I bought from **Andrew Way**, and is the lower end of my lands on the **Boyn Swamp** and the said tract of land joints land of **Gideon Dowse** also the liberty of cutting [Signed John Martin, Wit. John Portrees, Thomas Cater, John Davis] as much timber as will be sufficient for rails and building on the said tract if she chooses to build, also for fire wood during the time she remains my widow;

**Item** I give and bequeath unto my loving wife the said **Elizabeth Martin** 11 Negroes, which Negroes was given to me by her father **James Dunham**, that is to say: Boson, Glasgow, Abram, Julie, Andrew, nanny, Dye, Moriah, Jenny, Mary, and Little Dye, and also a Negro fellow named Billy, my riding chair, two horses such as she shall choose out of what horses shall be left by me to be delivered to her as soon as possible after my decease, but within six months afterward at farthest, the said legacy to be clear of all encumbrances whatsoever to her the said **Elizabeth Martin** and her heirs forever;

**Item** I give and bequeath unto my said son **James Dunham Martin** all the remainder of my movable estate to him the said **James Dunham Martin** and his heirs forever, and my will is that his slaves shall be employed in the planting business and the money arising from such

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employment exclusive of his education and other necessary expenses for him, my will is that the same may be laid out in the purchases of likely young slaves for the improvement of his interest until he arrives at the age of 21 years, but in case of the death of my said son **James Dunham Martin** before he arrives at the age of 21 years without lawful issue then and in such case my will is, that the lands so will to my said son, I give and devise in manner and form following that is to say;

**Item** I give and devise unto my nephew's **John Gibbons** son of **Hannah Gibbons** 200 acres of land which was originally granted to **Thomas Way** and is at the upper end of my land on the **Boyn Swamp**, which said tract of land I purchased from **William McLachlan** of **South Carolina** to him the said **John Gibbons** son of **Hannah Gibbons** and his heirs forever and the remainder of my lands on the said swamp which will be about 1300 acres in the case of the death of my said son as aforesaid, I give and devise unto my nephew **James Martin Gibbons** son of **Sarah Gibbons** and his heirs forever, subject nevertheless to the above restrictions and encumbrances of my said wife **Elizabeth Martin**;

**Item** as to that part of my movable the state willed to my said son **James Dunham Martin** in case of his death as aforesaid my will is that it be divided into three equal parts one part of which I give and bequeath to my said wife **Elizabeth Martin** and her heirs forever and the other two parts I give and bequeath unto my nephew **James Martin Gibbons** son of **Sarah Gibbons** his heirs forever, but in case of the death of my said nephew **James Martin Gibbons** before he arrives at the age of 21 years and without lawful issue then and in such case my will is that the land will him and what lands may, to him by the death of my said son **James Dunham Martin** I give and devise unto my two nephews **Joseph** and **Barack Gibbons** sons of **Sarah Gibbons** to be equally divided between them to them the said **Joseph** and **Barack Gibbons** and their heirs forever and the part of my movable estate which may fall air by the death of my said son **James Dunham Martin** aforesaid if his death should happen as above mentioned I give and bequeath to **Rebecca Martin Gibbons** daughter of **Sarah Gibbons** to her and her heirs forever;

**Item** lastly I constitute and appoint my father-in-law **James Dunham Esquire** of **South Carolina** and my two nephews **Joseph** and **William Gibbons** sons of **Hannah Gibbons** and my trusty friends **William Graves Sr.**, **John Stuart**, **Thomas Quarterman**, and **Thomas Bacon** son of **Marcy Bacon** executors and guardians of this my last will and testament ratifying and confirming and allowing this and no other to be my last will and testament contained and three sheets of paper in testimony which I have signed my hand to the first two sheets and my hand and seal to the third and last sheet this first day of February in the year of our Lord 1772. Signed: **John Martin**.

Signed sealed and acknowledged by the testator or as his last will and testament in the presence of us who in his presence and in the presence of each other as evidence signed our names the above day and year **John Prothrees**, **Thomas Cater** and **John Davis**

Georgia:

Before his honor James Habersham Esquire, President and Commander-in-chief of his Majesty's said Province and Ordinary of the same personally appeared **Thomas Cater** of the parish of Christ Church, planter, one of the subscribing witnesses to the annexed last will and testament of **John Martin** of the parish of **St. John**, deceased, who being solemnly swore on the holy evangelist of Almighty God made oath that he was present and did see the said testator sign, seal, publish, pronounce and declare the same to be and contain his last will and testament and that he was of sound and disposing mind and memory to the best of his knowledge and belief and that he



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with **John Prothrees** and **John Davis** subscribed their names as witnesses to the said will at the request and in the presence of the said testator and in each other's presence. At the same time **William Gibbons**, one of the executors named in the said will, qualified as such; given under my hand the 18th day December 1772. **William Graves** and **Thomas Bacon** qualified as executors on 30 December 1772. Signed James Habersham.

## Appendix E

### LWt of Elizabeth Donnom Martin Brownson

Transcribed by Robert Atteberry, Carmichael, CA, 4Jan2015

Georgia,

**In the name of God** Amen I Elizabeth wife of **Dr. Nathan Brownson** of Newport in said province, being sick and weak of body, but of sound and disposing mind and memory thanks be to Almighty God for the same but calling to mind the uncertainty of the present life, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, in manner and form following, viz.

**First** and principally my soul I resign to God who gave it and my body to the Earth to be decently buried in a Christian like manner in hopes of a happy resurrection to eternal life, thus the alone merits of my only Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and as touching such worldly things as it has pleased God to endow me with, I give and dispose of by virtue of that power reserved to myself in a marriage settlement sealed also by my said husband, in manner and form following,

**Imprimis**, first that all just debts and demands on me, being fully paid and satisfied;

**Item** as a memento of my great love and dutiful regard and affection to my mother-in-law **Mrs. Jane Dunham**, as such, I break her acceptance of my blue silk gown;

**Item** I give and bequeath unto my loving aunt **Mrs. Mary Dunham**, widow of my uncle **William Dunham** as a memorial my black satin capuchin, hat and my Brown silk gown;

**Item** all the residue and remainder of my wearing apparel I give and bequeath to my loving cousin **Elizabeth Baker** wife of **William Baker Junior** and my niece **Mary P Dunham** daughter of my brother **James Dunham** deceased to be equally divided between them share and share alike;

**Item** I give and bequeath to my loving husband **Dr. Nathan Brownson** for ever all my household goods, horses, chair with my horse Redbird excepted and him I give to my son **James Dunham Martin**;

**Item** I give the use of all my slaves with their issue as also all such slaves, goods, chattels or estates as may or shall arise from the reversion or reversions of the last will and testament of my late husband **John Martin Esquire** to my said husband **Nathan Brownson** during his natural life and after his decease to my said son **James Dunham Martin**, but at his death in failure of surviving lawful issue, one third of them and their issue to the lawful issue of my said husband, but in failure of such to go with the other two thirds of said Negroes and issue to my brothers **Joseph** and **William Dunham** and my said niece **Mary Dunham**, equally to be divided between them and their heirs;

**Lastly** I constitute, nominate and appoint my father **James Dunham** and my uncle **John Mitchell Esquire** and in failure of them my said husband **Nathan Brownson** and my brother **Joseph Dunham** as executors of this my last will and testament and guardians of my said son, joined with those named by his father in his will my late husband **John Martin Esquire**, disannulling and disallowing all former wills and bequests by me, paid and done, allowing this only, to be my last will and testament.

Dated at Newport in the above province, this 24th day of March 1775, and in the 15th year of his Majesty's reign. Signed, sealed, published and declared: **Elizabeth Brownson**

In presence of: **James Dunwoody**, **Esther Dunwoody** and **Mary Ann Ladson**

## Appendix F

### LWT of Edward Splatt (1740-1774)

Transcribed by Robert Atteberry, Carmichael, CA 6Jan2015

**In the name of God Amen**, I Edward Splatt of St. John's parish in the province of Georgia do this the 31st day of December 1773 make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following; in the first place I commend my soul to God through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ my Savior, and my body I commit to the Earth to be buried at the discretion of my executors here after named and as touch such worldly estate it hath pleased God to bless me with I give and devise the same in manner following, that is to say, my will is that my funeral charges and all my just debts be duly paid;

**Item** to my honored mother Hannah Splatt I give and bequeath the sum of 500 pounds current money of the province of South Carolina to be paid to her yearly and every year in the month of August during her natural life. Also a Negro girl called Hannah now in her possession to her and her heirs and assigns forever;

**Item** I give and bequeath to my dearly loved wife Esther all the remaining part of my estate both real and personal to her and her heirs and assigns forever;

**Finally**, I hereby nominate and appoint my said dearly loved wife to be the only and sole executrix of this my last will and testament. Signed Edward Splatt.

**Signed**, sealed, published and declared to be the last will and testament of the testator in the presence of Lyman Hall, Edward Ball and Josiah Bacon.

Georgia: Before his Excellency the Sir James Wright, Baronet, Captain General, Governor, and Governor in chief of his Majesty's said province of Georgia and Ordinary of the same, personally appeared Lyman Hall of the parish of St. John, practitioner in physic, one of the subscribing witnesses to the within written last will and testament of Edward Splatt, deceased who being solemnly sworn on the holy evangelist of Almighty God made oath that he was present and did see the said testator sign, seal, published, pronounced and declare the same to be and contain his last will and testament and that he was of sound and disposing mind and memory to the best of his knowledge and belief and that he with Edward Ball and Josiah Bacon inscribe their names as witnesses to the said will at the request and in the presence of the said testator or and in each other's presence. At the same time Esther Splatt, the executrix named in the said will qualifies as such. Given under my hand 2 March 1774 signed James Wright.

## Appendix G

### WILL OF JOHN DUNWOODY

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN, This Seventeenth Day of September In the year of our Lord One thousand, seven hundred & seventy six, I, John Dunwoody, of West Nantmel Township, Chester County & Province of Pensylvania, being sick & weak of Body, but of perfit & memory, Blessed be god for the same & calling to mind that is appointed for all men to die and finding myself approaching near to the time of my Departure of this present Life by the Disolution of my Soul from this frail Body, Do make and ordain this my last Will & Testament in the maner & form as followeth, vizt.

**First** of all I give and resign my soul up to God through Jesus Christ who gave it in hope of a full Pardon of all my sins through the Merits of the Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, the son of God, & my Body to be buried in the Earth in a deasant Christian Manner at the Discre tion of my Exacutors in the blessed hope of a Resurrection to eternal Life by the Power of Almighty God, & as touching what little of this World's Goods I may leave behind me I give & bequeath in Manner & form as followeth, & first I appoint & order that all my lawful Debts & fineral charges be paid by my Exacutors.

**ITEM**, I give and bequeath unto my dear & loving Wife the sum of One hundred Pounds together with a Horse & saddle & Bed & Bed Cloaths, & one Milch Cow to be kept for her & her choice of a Room in the House.

**ITEM**, I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Margaret Maghan the Wife of Archibald Maghan, the sum of Five shil lings.

**ITEM**, I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Euart, Wife of John Euart the sum of five shillings.

**ITEM, I give & bequeath unto my son James Dunwoody the sum of Five Shillings.**

**ITEM**, I give & bequeath unto my Daughter Susanna Hamel, the Wife of William Hamel, the sum of Five shillings.

**ITEM**, I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Rebecca McWilliams the Wife of Hugh McWilliams deceased, the sum of Five Shillings.

**ITEM**, I give & bequeath unto my Daughter Sarah Dunwoody, the sum of Fifty Pounds & a Horse & Saddle & one Bed & Bed Cloaths and one Case of Drawers & two Mileh Cows providing she pleases her Mother & Brothers in Marriage, & if not I leave it at their Disposal to deal to her as they shall think fit:

**ITEM**, I give & bequeath unto my two sons Robert Dunwoody & John Dunwoody all the Remainder Part of my Estate both real & Personal to be equally Devided between them as they shall Think to the best advantage. I do hereby ordain & appoint my two sons Robert Dunwoody & John Dunwoody to be my sole Exacutors of this my last Will & Testament & I do hereby Revoke disalow & Disanull all & every other former Wills & Testaments whatsoever heretofore made or mentioned & I do hereby ratify & confirm this & know other to be my last Will & Testament.

**In Witness whereof** I have hereunto set my Hand Seal this Day & year above written. Signed, Sealed, Published, Pronounced & Declared by the said John Dunwoody as his Last Will & Testament in the Presence of us the Subscribers.

**At West Town**, June 18th, A. D. 1777: Then Personally appeared before me Ann Craig & upon her solemn Oath Doth say that She saw on the 18th of Sept. 1770 a Will that was signed & sealed with John Dunwoody's Name which was signed by James Anderson & James Legett as Evidences, & that the above is the true Purport of the said executed Will, **except the fourth**

## Appendix G

**Bequest** which this Deponant saith was not in that Writing which was so executed; and further saith not. Ann Craig Thomas Taylor. West-Town, June 18th, Anno Domini 1777,

**Then** Personally appeared before me James Anderson & upon his Solemn Oath saith that as near as he can remember about the 15th or 16th of September John Dunwoody sent for him and the said John Dunwoody ordered his Wife to tell his son Robert Dunwoody to fetch his Will he then had wrote & the said John Dunwoody took the said Writing & seem'd to peruse it & this Deponant Then asked him if he could read it which the said Dunwoody said he could as it was a very legible hand Writing, & this Deponant then asked him if it was to his Mind which the said Dunwoody then answered him it was: Then the said John Dunwoody took the said Writing & signed it & declared It to be his Last Will & Testament & desired this deponant to be a Witness to the same, declaring that to be his will & no other, this Deponant signed the said Writing as an Evidence thereunto & that the said Deponant saith the said Dunwoody was in perfect disposing Mind & Memory at the time of his Executing the same & further saith not. James Anderson. Before me T. Taylor, Regr.

**Likewise** Then Personally appeared before me Jas. Liget & on his Solemn affirmation Doth say that last seed time he accidentally went to John Dunwoodys & that this Deponant saith he believes the said Dunwoody & his wife both Desired him to stay & be an Evidence to his Will. Accordingly there was a Writing produced & the said Dunwoody look'd over it & seem'd as if he was perusing the same, the said John Dunwoody signed sealed & Declared It to be his Act & Deed & likewise Declared it to be his last Will & Testament then this Deponant saith he signed the said Writing as an Evidence to the same & that the said Dunwoody was in perfect Disposing Mind & Memory at the time of his Executing the same, & further saith not. James Liget; Sworn & affirmed Before T. Taylor, Regr.

(Will Book F., p. 339.)

**Twelve years later** the genuine will was produced and placed upon record, being as follows:

**In the name of God**, Amen. This seventeenth Day of September In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred And seventy six, I, John Dunwoody of West Nantmill Townshipe Chester County and Province of pensylvania, Being sick and weak of Boddy but of perfect Mind And Memory Blessed be god for the same, and finding my selfe Aproaching Nigh to the time of my Departure out of this present Life By the Disalutiou of My Soule from this frail Boddy Do Make and ordain this My Last Will and testemant In the Manner and form as follows viz.

**First** of all I gave and Resine My Soul up to god through Jesus Christ the sone of god Who gave it in Hope of a full pardon of All My sins through the Merits of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and My Body to be Buried in the Earth in a Desent Christen Manner at the Discretion of My Executors in the blessed hope of a Resurrection to Eternal Life by the pour of Almighty god And as touching what little of this Worldly goods I leave behind Me I give and Bequeath In Manner and term as followeth first I order that all My Lafull Debts and funeral Charges Be paid by my Executionrs:

**Item** I give and Bequeath unto my Dear and Loving wife the sum of one hundred pounds together With a horse and saddle a bed and bed cloths and hir choise of a rume in the house and one Milch Cow which she is to have Mentained for her.

**Item** I give and Bequeath unto Margrat Maghan the Wife of Archabald Maction My Ealdest Daughter, the sume of five shillings.

**Item**, I give and bequeath unto Mary Euart the wife of John Euart the sume of five shillings.

**Item**, I give and bequeath unto Susanna Hamel the sume of five shillings.

**Item**, I give and Bequeath unto My Daughter Rebeca McWilliams the sume of five shillings.



## Appendix G

**Item,** I give and bequeath unto My Daughter Sara Dunwody the sume of fifty pounds together With a horse and Sadie and one Case of Drawers With a bed and bed cloths and too Milch Cows provided she pleases her Mother and Brothers in maridg if not I Leave it to be Dealt at their Discreation.

**Item,** I give and Bequeath unto my two sons Robert Dunwoody and John Dunwoody all the Remainder part of my Estat Both real and personall To be Equally Divided Between them in aney Manner they shall Judge to be the Most Advantage And I Do hereby ordain Robart Dunwody and John Dunwody My Sole Executours of this My last Will and testemant And I do hereby Revock Disallow and Disanull all and Every other former Wills and Testments Whatsoever Made or Mentioned and hereby ratify And Confirm and No other to be my Last Will and Testment.

**In Witness Whereof** I have hereunto Set My And Seal the Day and year above Written. Signed Sealed Published Pronounced and Dellivred By the said John Dunwoody as his Last Will and testament. John Dunwoddy

In the presence of us the subscribers James Anderson James Ligget

## Appendix H

### Prenuptial Agreement Between Nathan Brownson & Elizabeth McLean

Deed Book HH, p. 16  
Georgia

This Indenture Tripartite made the tenth day of Aprill (sic) in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six between Nathan Brownson of the Parish of St. John in the province of Georgia, Practitioner in Physick, of the first Part, Elizabeth McLean, of the Parish of Christ Church in the province aforesaid, widow, of the second part and Benjamin Andrew Sen. of the said Parish of St. John in the province aforesaid, Esquire, and Josiah Dupont of the province of South Carolina, planter/ Trustees nominated and appointed by them, the said Nathan Brownson and Elizabeth McLean, for the needs, Interests, and purposes herein after mentioned and expressed/ of the third part. Whereas a marriage by Gods permission is shortly intended to be had (held?) and solemnized between the said Nathan Brownson and the said Elizabeth McLean. And whereas the said Elizabeth McLean on the day of the date hereof being lawfully possessed in her own right of the negro slaves and effects herein after mentioned, hath agreed by and with the consent of the said Nathan Brownson, her intended husband to assign, title, and makeover the same in such way and manner as will provide and secure a competent maintenance and support for her, the said Elizabeth, in case she shall survive the said Nathan. Now therefore, this Indenture in writing (set) forth that in consideration of the said intended marriage and in order to provide and secure a competent maintenance and support to and for the said Elizabeth in case the said intended marriage shall take effect and she, the said Elizabeth, shall survive the said Nathan and for certain other Good Causes and Considerations, the said Elizabeth thereinto moving and also in consideration of the sum of ten shillings, current money of the province aforesaid, by the said Benjamin Andrew Sen. and Josiah Dupont to the said Elizabeth McLean in hand, well and truly paid, at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, she, the said Elizabeth McLean, by and with the consent of the said Nathan Brownson, her intended husband, hath granted, bargained, sold, and assigned and by these presents Doth Grant, Bargain sell and assign unto the said Benjamin Andrew Sen. and Josiah Dupont all and singular, these, her twelve negro slaves herein after particularly named that is to say **Guy, Sonny, Little Guy**, Monday, & Neptune, male slaves and **Gritter, Phyllis, Nancy, Clarassea, [green slaves from husband's estate]** Hager, Britiannia, and Tacky(?), females and also all and singular the household goods, plate, chattels or effects as mentioned in the schedule as Inventory hereunto annexed To have and to hold the said twelve negro slaves with the future issue and increase of the said female slaves and also the said Household goods, plate, chattels, and effects unto the said Benjamin Andrew and Josiah Dupont and the survivor of them and the Executors and Administrators of such survivor, to and for the several uses, intents, and purposes and upon the several truths and confidences herein after mentioned, of and concerning the same, and to and for the otherwise intent or purposes whatsoever, that is to say to the use and behalf of the said Elizabeth McLean, her Executors, Administrators, and Assigns with the solemnization of the said intended marriage, and from and immediately after the solemnization of the said intended marriage, then to and for the joint use and behalf of the said Nathan Brownson and Elizabeth McLean till one of them shall depart this Life, except with respect to the plate mentioned in the annexed Inventory which is hereby Declared to be intended for the sole and separate use of the said Elizabeth, her Executors, Administrators and Assigns forever and from and after the Determination of the said last mentioned Estate/ except as before excepted/ share

## Appendix H

the use, occupation, management, and profits to be had and received by the said Nathan Brownson for and during his Natural Life in case he shall survive the said Elizabeth and after his decease/ in case of such survivorship /to the heirs, Executors and Administrators of the said Elizabeth, but in case he shall not survive her, then the whole of the said Estate, from and immediately after the death of the said Nathan, shall be delivered to and become the absolute property of the said Elizabeth, her Executors, Administrators and Assigns forever, and further it is hereby agreed by and between all parties to these presents, that notwithstanding the said intended marriage, then said Elizabeth shall be at Liberty and it shall be lawful for her at any time or times hereafter to make, sell, and execute her Last Will and Testament in Writing provided the same shall contain no bequest which may tend to deprive the said Nathan Brownson of any benefits or advantages which he can legally enjoy under and by virtue of this present settlement and not otherwise, and it is particularly agreed by and between the said parties, that all debts contracted or to be contracted, by the said Elizabeth prior to the intended marriage shall be paid and discharged out of the said Estate and Effects herein before mentioned, or out of the gain or profit which shall be made thereby, and lastly the said Benjamin Andrew Sen. and Josiah Dupont for themselves, and each of them and each of their heirs, as Executors and Administrators Do hereby Convey and Grant and Agree to and with the said Nathan Brownson and Elizabeth McLean and the survivor of them and the heirs, Executors, and Administrators of such survivor, that they, the said Benjamin and Josiah, and either of them, their, or either of their heirs, Executors or Administrators shall and will in all things well and truly observe, fulfill and keep all and singular the articles, Clauses, and truths as herein before set forth in writings whereof the said parties have hereinto Interchangeably set this hand and seal the day and year first before written.

Furniture Viz:\_\_\_

Three Beds and Furniture

Five Mahogany Chairs

One \_\_\_ D\_ Carpet

Tea kettle & W\_\_\_

1 Pair of Shades

fire dogs & spit, 3 rakes & spotle

1 trunk & coffy mill

\_\_\_\_\_ Irons and crockery ware

three tables, one set of Drawers, one Desk

A List of the plate

Five Tablespoons

One Tankard

One Milk Pot

two Doz. knives and forks

one Doz. Teaspoons

one Pepper Box

Nathan (LS) Brownson

Elizabeth (LS) McLean

Benjamin (LS) Andrew

Josiah (LS) Dupont

## Appendix H

Sealed and Delivered by the said Nathan Brownson  
Elizabeth McLean & Benjamin Andrew Sen. in the  
presence of ~~~~~~

Thomas Tallemach

Jean Hatcher

And Sealed and Delivered by the said Josiah

Dupont in the presence of

Thomas Tallemach

Jean Hatcher

Received on the day of the date of the within written Deed from the within named Benjamin Andrew Sen. & Josiah Dupont the sum of ten shillings current money of the province of Georgia being the Consideration within expressed to have been by them paid to me.

Elizabeth McLean

Present:

Thomas Tallemach

Jean Hatcher

Georgia

Personally appeared before me, Thomas Tallemach, Gentln., who being solemnly sworn on the hold Evangelist of the Almighty God made Oath that he was present and saw the said within named, Elizabeth McLean, Nathan Brownson, Benjamin Andrew Sen. and Josiah Dupont severally sign, seal, and as their Act and Deed deliver the within deed of Settlement to and for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and that he, the Deponent and Jean Hatcher subscribed their names as witnesses thereto and to the Receipt endorsed thereon~~~~~

Sworn this 9th day of May, 1777

Thomas Tallemach

Before James Whitfield \_\_ C.

Recorded, 9th May, 1777

## Appendix I

### Last Will and Testament of John McLean

Transcribed by Robert Atteberry, Carmichael, CA, 4Jan2015.

Georgia,

**In the name of God** Amen I **John McLean** of Little Ogechee in the Parish of Christ Church, gentleman, being sick and body but of sound mind and memory blessed be God do this day make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

**Imprimis** after my lawful debts and funeral expenses are discharged, I give and bequeath to my loving wife **Elizabeth McLean** the following Negroes, that is to say: Guy, Gritter, Phyllis, Sonny, Nancy, Clarissa, and Little Guy, to her and her heirs forever;

**Item** I likewise give and bequeath to my said **wife** the sum of £20 to be paid to her yearly out of my estate during her widowhood and no longer, I likewise give and bequeath to my said wife the eighth part of my household goods whereof I shall be possessed at the time of my decease, I also give her my riding chair and chair horse, it is also my will and desire that my said wife have liberty to live on the plantation where on I now live for and during her widowhood and no longer;

**Item** I give and bequeath to my son **John McLean** and his heirs forever the eighth part of my household goods also the sum of one shillings sterling money of Great Britain;

**Item** I give and bequeath to my daughter **Elizabeth** the wife of **Alexander Chrichton** the following Negroes: Will, Venture, Nero, Dick, Queen and Isaac to her and the heirs of her body also one town lot in Savannah situated in Broughton Street and owned by the number and the eighth part of my household goods to her and the heirs of her body;

**Item** I give and bequeath and devise to my daughter **Margaret McLean** 500 acres of land on the North side of the great Satilla River adjoining lands belonging to **Benjamin Farley** to her and her heirs forever;

**Item** I give and bequeath and devise to my son **Josiah McLean** and his heirs forever the plantation and tract of land where on I now live and 200 acres of land joining lands of **Christopher Dawson** and **David de Legal** and 500 acres on Buckhead joining lands of Hooker;

**Item** I give and bequeath to my sons **Andrew McLean** and **Jervey McLean** and my daughter **Sarah McLean** and their heirs forever all my lands on the South side of the great Satilla River, that is to say 500 acres to my daughter **Sarah McLean** and the remainder to be equally divided between my sons **Andrew McLean** and **Jervey McLean** by my executors here after to be named, I also give to my five following children: **Margaret McLean, Josiah McLean, Sarah McLean, Andrew McLean and Jervey McLean** all my slaves were with I shall be possessed at my decease which are not disposed of above, also my stock of cattle and household goods to be equally divided amongst them and to be delivered to them as soon as they arrive at the age of 21 years and in case any of my said children should die before they arrive at the age of 21 years or without issue lawfully begotten, that there share shall revert back and be equally divided amongst my then surviving children. It is also my desire that my children be educated and that my sons be put to trades according to their inclination.

I do hereby constitute and appoint the **Hon. James Reed, Joseph Clay Esquire, James Butler** (son of Joseph Butler) and **James Habersham Junior** to be the executors to this my last will and testament and I do hereby utterly disallow and revoke and disembowel all and every other former Testaments wills legacies bequests and executors by me in any way before named, willed and bequeathed ratifying and confirming this and no other, to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal this 21st day of July 1773. Signed **John McLean**.



## Appendix I

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced and declared by the said **John McLean**, as his last will and testament, in the presence of us who in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names: **Tabatha Baillou, Isaac Baillou, and James Mercer**.

Georgia, before his Excellency Sir Thomas Wright Baronet Capt. general and governor in chief of his Majesty's said province and ordinary of the same personally appeared **James Mercer** one of the subscribing witnesses to the above and within writ last will and testament of John McLean, deceased, who being solemnly sworn made oath that he was present and did see the said testator sign, seal, publish, pronounce and declare the same to be and contain his last will and testament and that he was of sound and disposing mind and memory to the best of his knowledge and belief and that he with **Isaac Baillou** and **Tabatha Baillou** subscribe their names as witnesses to the said will at the request and in the presence of the said testator or and in each other's presence. At the same time **James Habersham Junior** one of the executors named in the said will qualified as such given under my hand the 1 January 1774 signed Thomas Wright.

# Appendix J

## Elizabeth Jones Petition

### DEPARTMENT OF WAR.

*Regulations for the heirs of Officers and Soldiers of the Revolutionary Army, who were slain by the enemy, or who have died since the war, and have not received land from the United States.*

By an act of Congress of the 16th September, 1776, it is provided that the Officers and Soldiers who engaged for, and continued to serve during the war, or until discharged by Congress, and the heirs of such Officers and Soldiers as shall be slain by the enemy, shall receive land in proportion to their rank.

N. B. Those who engaged for three years, or for any other period than during the war, or who died of sickness, fatigue, or casualty, are not entitled to land from the United States.

The following declaration (and enclosed blank form of heirship) must be filled up and signed by the proper authorities:

State of *Georgia*  
County of *Richmond* }

I, *Elizabeth Jones* heir at law of *Nathan Brownson*  
do, upon oath, testify and declare, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that *Nathan Brownson*  
did enter the service in 1779, for the term of *Three years*  
and served as a *Private* in the Regiment No. *1* under the command of Colonel  
of the *Continental Line* line; and that he continued  
in the service aforesaid until *discharged*  
I further declare that I have never received a warrant for the bounty land promised to *Nathan*  
on the part of the United States; nor do I believe that he ever received  
it, or transferred his claim to it in any manner whatsoever: therefore,

Know all men by these presents, That I *Elizabeth Jones (widow)* aforesaid,  
do hereby constitute and appoint *Marshall G. W. Harrison* to be my true  
and lawful attorney, for me and in my name to demand and receive from the Secretary of War of the  
United States, a warrant for the quantity of land due to me as aforesaid; and my said attorney is  
hereby fully authorized and empowered to constitute and appoint one or more substitutes or attorneys  
under him, for the special purposes above expressed.

Attest,

*J. W. Meredith* *Elizabeth Jones*

Personally appeared the abovenamed *Elizabeth Jones (widow)* subscriber  
to the foregoing declaration, and made oath to the same, and in my presence acknowledged the power of  
attorney thereto subjoined to be her free act and deed, for the purposes therein mentioned.

Attest,

*J. W. Meredith* Justice of the Peace.

In testimony that the above written *James W. Meredith* was a magistrate  
authorized to administer oaths, and take acknowledgments, &c. in the State of *Georgia*  
at the above date, and that his name there subscribed appears to me to be his usual signature, I have here-  
unto affixed the county seal, and subscribed my name and quality, at *Augusta, Georgia, Richmond*  
this *16* day of *June* 1836

*County* *James M. Laws* C. Clerk, &c.  
*Superior Court*  
*Richmond County*

## Appendix K

Little Ogechee in Georgia

in the name of God Amen, I **David Fox Senior** of **Little Ogechee** in the province of Georgia, planter, being of perfect mind and memory, praised be to God for same, yet calling to mind the uncertainty and instability of this transitory life; do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say,

first and principally I will and resign my soul to God who gave it me... Hoping through his mercies and the merits of my blessed Savior Jesus Christ to obtain pardon and full remission of all my sins... And my body I commit to the Earth from whence it came, to be buried decently at the discretion of my beloved friends...

And as for what worldly estate God has been pleased to endow me with I give and dispose thereof as follows

Imprimis I will all my lawful debts be paid out of my estate;

item I give and bequeath unto my loving wife **Elizabeth Fox** all my goods and estate except a Negro boy called Primus that I give to my son **Benjamin Fox** to her management and use as long as she liveth, and at her decease I will and ordain as follows

item all lands belonging to me I give unto my four sons vizt.: **Benjamin Fox, Richard Fox, James Fox and George Fox** to be equally divided amongst them for... The cattle and horses I will to be equally divided amongst my six loving children, vizt.: **Jonathan, Benjamin, Richard, James, George and Anne**... The Negroes I will to be divided amongst my five children: **Benjamin, Richard, James, George and Nancy**... And my household stuff and furniture's I leave to the disposing of my loving wife as she shall think proper;

lastly I will and ordain my two loving sons **Benjamin Fox and Richard Fox** to be the executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all other will or wills by me hereto for made, acknowledging this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have here unto your revocable sent and signed my hand and seal this 13th day of March in the year of our Lord 1760.

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced, and declared to be the last will and testament in the presence of us Richard Warren, Edward Delegal and Francis Parry.

Georgia:

by his Excellency James Wright Esquire, Capt. general and Gov. in chief of his Majesty's said province and ordinary of the same.

Personally appeared before me, Francis Parry being one of the subscribing witnesses to the last will and testament of David Fox the elder late of little Ogechee in the province aforesaid, planter, deceased and being duly sworn on the holy evangelist made oath that he was personally present and did see the testator sign seal published pronounced and declare the same to be and contain the last will and testament and that he was of sound and disposing mind and memory to the best of his knowledge and belief and that he with Edward Delegal and Richard Warren signed his name as witness in the said will at the request and in the presence of the testator and in each other's presence. At the same time Benjamin Fox named executor, qualified as such before me. Given under my hand this 11th day of November 1762. James Wright Esquire

Written: 13Mar1760

Proven: 11Nov1762

## Appendix L

Georgia

in the name of God Amen, I David Fox of Christ church parish being very sick and weak of body but of perfect mind and memory considering frailties of human nature do make a point and constitute the following instrument of writing my last will and testament. That is to say, and principally I give and bequeath my soul unto the hand of God who gave it me and my body to be buried at the discretion of my friends and relations and as to what worldly goods it pleased the providence of God to endow me with after all my lawful debts are fully paid and discharged I give and dispose in the following form and manner;

I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Catherine one Negro girl named Hannah to her and her heirs for ever and my beloved children my lands and slaves and silver mark and money and all to be equally divided between my wife Catherine and my five children: William, Joseph, John, David and my daughter Elizabeth; my sons to be in full possession of their part of my estate at age of 21 years and my daughter when she is married or at the age of 18 years.

Lastly I nominate, appoint and constitute my beloved wife Catherine and my brothers John and William Fox to be my executors of this my last will and testament. Utterly revoking and disannulling all former will or wills hereto for by me made do publicly pronounced and declare the above instrument of writing to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have here with set my hand and seal this 11th day of December in the year of our Lord 1766.

N.B. the above enter line above the 11th line was wrote before this instrument was signed.

Witnesses: Christopher Dawson, John McLean, Locklin McGillivary

before his Excellency James Wright Esquire Capt. general and Gov. in chief of his Majesty's said province and ordinary of the same.

Personally appeared Locklin Magill very one of the subscribing witnesses to the within writ last will and testament of David Fox of Christ church parish, deceased, who being duly sworn on the holy evangelist of Almighty God made oath and did see the testator sign seal published pronounced and declare the same to be and contain his last will and testament and that he was of sound and disposing mind and body to the best of his knowledge and belief and that he with Christopher Dawson and John McLean signed their names as witnesses at the request and in the presence of the testator and in each other's presence at the same time William Fox executors...  
Seventh day of January 1767

## Appendix M

### LWT of Benjamin Fox

In the name of God Amen I Benjamin Fox of Christ Church parish and province of Georgia, planter, being weak in body though sound and perfect in my understanding and memory, blessed be God for his mercies, do constitute and make this my last will and testament, and desire it may be received by all as such

in the first place I commit my body to the ground there to be interred in a decent Christian manner at my soul I recommend to God who give it, and as to all my worldly estate both real and personal I give, demise and dispose of in the following manner and form – – –

Imprimis, I give and bequeath to my son Benjamin Fox his heirs of his body begotten or assigns when of age for ever all my plantation or tract of land where on I live in Christ Church parish and province aforesaid containing 1300 acres be it more or less together with all houses and improvements thereon,

likewise I give and bequeath to my son the aforesaid Benjamin Fox his heirs and his assigns forever the one equal fourth part of all my Negroes including one Negro child named Charlotte together with the equal fourth part of all my household furniture, horses, dogs and cattle, and my will is that all the above bequests come into his own proper possession at the day of his marriage or I guess the time he is 21 years of age and no sooner – – –

and my will is that in case my son the aforementioned Benjamin Fox should die without heirs of his body begotten... – That the above mentioned plantation or tract of land shall be divided equally amongst his own sisters then living and to their heirs and assigns forever;

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Anne Fox her heirs or assigns forever one equal third part of all the other lands I hold or am properly entitled to in the province aforesaid excepting the above mentioned 1300 acres, likewise one equal fourth part of all my Negroes including a mulatto wench named Betty together with a fourth part of my household furniture, horses, dogs and cattle to come into her own proper possession at the day of her marriage or against the time she is 16 years of age;

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth Fox her heirs or assigns forever one equal third part of all the lands I possess excepting the aforementioned tract or plantation where on I live, likewise one equal fourth part of all my Negroes including one Negro girl named taffy, together with a fourth part of my household furniture, horses, dogs and cattle to come into her own proper possession at the day of her marriage or against the time she is 16 years of age;

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary Fox her heirs or assigns forever one equal third part of all my lands in the province aforesaid excepting the of for mentioned plantation or tract of land where on I live, likewise one equal fourth part of all my Negroes including one Negro child named Rachel, together with a fourth part of my household furniture, horses, hogs and cattle to come into her own proper possession at the day of her marriage or against the time she is 16 years of age and no sooner;

and I leave a discretionary power to my executors to sell or dispose of any part or parcel of my lands they think proper or best for the benefit and use of my daughters, excepting the plantation or tract of land where on I live, which is to remain to my son and his heirs forever as before specified;

and my will and desire is that my executors would take a particular care to give my children a genteel education and to see that they are well used;

Item I give and bequeath to my brother John Fox my shirts;

Item I give and bequeath to my brother-in-law Joseph Raines my silver watch;



## Appendix M

am my will is that all my wearing apparel be divided equally amongst my brothers **George Fox**, **James Fox**, and **Joseph Raines**;

and I do hereby constitute, ordain and appoint my brothers **John Fox**, **William Fox** and **George Fox** and **Joseph Raines** to be my executors of this my last will and testament and to do all that is in their power to see it duly and truly executed and performed according to the true intent and meaning thereof;

and I do hereby revoke, disavowal, disannulling and make void all other wills, deeds, legacies and bequests whatsoever and do hereby ratify and confirm this and no other to be my last will and testament where unto I have set my hand and seal this... In the year of our Lord 1773

signed, sealed, published, pronounced and declared by **Benjamin Fox** to be his last will and testament in the presence of us and he in our presence and in the presence of each other where unto we have subscribed our names.

NOTE: Will was written by John McMahon, School Master, at request of Benjamin Fox, who was sick in bed. The writing of the Will was established by an affidavit by John McMahon dated 2Jul1773. McMahon averred that he had been summoned by Benjamin Fox sometime in February, 1773, at which time he drafted the Will based on Benjamin Fox's recitation.

## Appendix N

### LWT of James Fox Sr.

Georgia

In the name of God Amen I **James Fox** of the parish of **Christ Church** and province of **Georgia**, planter being weak of body though sound in mind and memory blessed be God for his mercies do this 25th day of October in the year of our Lord 1773 make and constitute this my last will and testament and desire it may be received by all as such

In the first place I command my soul into the hands of the Almighty who give it and my body to the Earth there to be interred in a decent Christian manner at the discretion of my executors and as to all my worldly estate I give and demise and dispose of in the following manner and form;

First my will is that all my lawful debts and funeral expenses be paid and truly discharged by my executors here in aforementioned;

Imprimis I give and bequeath to my loving wife **Anne Fox** the sum of £10, my horse – – – featherbed together with a third part of all my household furniture;

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter **Mary Fox**, her heirs or assigns to Negroes, viz., one fellow named coffee and one wench named Judah also my second best featherbed and one third part of my household furniture;

Item I give and bequeath to my son **James Fox** his heirs or assigns three Negroes, viz., London, Jack and Betty, also my best featherbed and one third part of all my household furniture, and my will is that my executors sell or cause to be sold one tract of land containing 300 acres laying in **St. George's Parish** belonging to me and the money arising therefrom to be laid out in a Negro or Negroes which Negro I give and bequeath to my son **James Fox** aforesaid and my will is that in case both my children should depart this life before they come of age or without heirs of their bodies begotten that then all their legacies are to revert to my niece and nephew **Mary Ann Fox and Richard Fox**, son and daughter of my brother, **William Fox**, to be divided equally between them share and share alike;

To all my wearing apparel, guns, etc. I leave to the discretion of my executors to dispose of as they think best for the benefit of my children;

And I do hereby constitute and ordain and appoint my brothers **William Fox** and **Jonathan Fox** to be joint executors of all and singular this my last will and testament; and I do hereby revoke, disallow and make void all other wills, deeds, gifts and bequests whatsoever, and do ratify and confirm this and no other to be my last will and testament as witness whereof my hand and seal the year and date above written.

Signed, sealed, pronounced, published and declared by **James Fox** to be his last will and testament in the presence of us who in his presence and in the presence of each other have here unto subscribed our names: **John McMahon, Joseph Raines and James Cook**.

Before his Excellency Sir James Wright, Baronet, Capt. general and Gov. and Cmdr. in chief of his Majesty's said province of Georgia and ordinary of the same – – – personally appeared **John McMahon** one of the subscribing witnesses to the within writ last will and testament of James Fox deceased who being duly sworn on the holy evangelist of Almighty God made oath that he was present and did see the said testator sign, sealed, published, pronounced and declare the same to be and contain his last will and testament and that he was of sound and disposing mind and memory to the best of his knowledge and belief and that he with Joseph Raines and James Cook subscribe their names as witnesses to the said will at the request and in the presence of the said testator or and in each other's presence. At the same time **William Fox and Jonathan Fox**, executors named in the said will qualified as such. Given under my hand 18 December 1773, James Wright Esquire

## Appendix O

### LWT of Richard Fox

Georgia

In the name of God Amen I **Richard Fox** in the parish of Christ church in the province of Georgia, planter, being weak in body but sound in mind and memory (blessed be God) do this present 15th day of April in the year of our Lord 1771 make and publish this my last will and testament in the manner following (that is to say) I commit my soul blank blank blank through the... Of my Savior Jesus Christ and as for the worldly estate were with it has pleased God to bless me I dispose as follows

I give and devise to my loving **brother William Fox** of the parish aforesaid, planter and his heirs forever all that tract of land or plantation where on I now live containing 376 1/2 acres be the same more or less situate in the district of Savannah in the parish aforesaid together with my house and household furniture outhouses and all the improvements there on my horses hogs and cows and callous after paying my funeral expenses and lawful debts

also I give and devise to my loving **brother George Fox** of the parish aforesaid, planter and his heirs forever two tracts of land situate in the parish of St. David on the Buffalo Savannah containing together 800 acres be the same more or less

item I give and bequeath to my said **brother George Fox** and his heirs forever five Negroes named sharper, one wench named Flora and her three children Skippy oh man and little sharper.

I likewise give and bequeath to my said brother **George** and his heirs forever one Negro wench and her increase name Priscilla.

Item I give and bequeath to my **brother Benjamin Fox** and his heirs for ever for Negroes namely Ishmael and his wife Hagar and her two children named Ishmael and Primus

item I give and bequeath to my **brother John Fox** and his heirs forever to Negro man: will and Caesar.

Item I give and bequeath to my **brother Jonathan Fox** five shillings sterling.

Item I give and bequeath to my **brother James Fox** the sum of five shillings sterling.

I give and bequeath to my **sister Anne Fox** for and during her natural life one Negro woman named Sarah and at her decease I give and bequeath the said Negro winch to my **nephew Richard Fox son of the aforesaid William Fox**.

I give and bequeath to my **niece Mary Ann Fox** daughter of the aforesaid **James Fox** and her heirs forever one Negro named Sampson.

Item I give and bequeath to my **nephew James Fox** son of the aforesaid **James Fox senior** and his heirs forever one Negro named Abram.

Item I give and bequeath to my **nephew David Junior** son of the aforesaid **John Fox** and his heirs forever one Negro woman named Phyllis.

Item I make, constitute and ordain my two loving brothers... and **George Fox** executors to this my last will and testament; utterly disallow, revoke and disembowel all and every other former wills, legacies, bequests and executors by me in anyways before named and bequeath ratifying and confirming this and no other to be the last will and testament. In witness whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal the day and year above written. Signed and sealed Richard Fox.

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced and declared by the said Richard Fox as his last will and testament in the presence of us who in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names: -- **Isaac Baillou**, Hugh Sym and Samuel Clark.

Before his honor James Habersham Esquire president and commander-in-chief of his Majesty's said province and ordinary of the same; personally appeared Isaac Baillou of Savannah gentlemen one of the subscribing witnesses to the within and above written last will and

## **Appendix O**

testament of Richard Fox, late of the parish of Christ church, planter, deceased who being solemnly sworn the holy evangelist of Almighty God made oath that he was present etc. etc.

## Appendix P

### LWT of Joseph Fox

In the name of God Amen, I, Joseph Fox, of Chatham County in the state of Georgia being sick and weak in body but of sound and disposing mind and memory do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following;

first, I will that all my lawful debts be paid, then I give and bequeath to the children of the (late John Stuart, Esquire of Newport, deceased) my late wife's father, lot Negroes I am possessed of which were formerly a longing to that estate and I received in right of my wife; also lot in Sunbury I give to the said children;

also, the other Negroes which I possess by purchase or otherwise as well as those I had of my father's estate I do give and bequeath to the children of my brother, William Fox, together with the remainder of my personal estate of every kind, except a chest of drawers which are in the possession of my said brother;

I give to Mrs. Quarterman, sister of my late wife;

I do also give unto my nephew, Charles Fox, the son of my said brother, all my property or tract of land and little Ogeechee, formerly the residence of my father being sixth of the said tract which I bought of my sister Mrs. Turner, to be disposed of or For the benefit of my said nephew, at the discretion of my said brother William; lastly it is my meaning that my brothers children above-mentioned shall share equally in the personal property above given to them and the children of the late John Stuart, Esquire, share equally or in like manner among themselves the property before given to the said children of Mr. Stewart, and is also my meaning and intention that to children born to the women slaves I possess which were formerly belonging to Mr. Stewart's estate shall be the property of the children of the said Mr. Stewart;

and I do hereby appoint my friends William Quarterman, Thomas Gibbons Junior and my brother William Fox executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills by me made and have here unto set my hand and seal this fifth day of December in the year of our Lord 1783. Signed Joseph Fox.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of and Gibbons Junior, Peter Dowell and Esther Gibbons.

State of Georgia: before me, George Jones Esquire, register of probates, for the County of Chatham, in the state aforesaid, personally appeared Peter Dowell one of the subscribing witnesses to the within writ last will and testament of Mr. Joseph Fox of the County of Chatham in the said state, deceased, who being duly sworn maketh oath, that he was present and did see the said testator, signed, sealed, published, pronounced and declare the same to be and contain his last will and testament and that he was of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding to the best of his knowledge and belief, and that he with and Gibbons Junior and Esther Gibbons subscribe their names as witnesses thereto at the request and in the presence of the said testator and in each other's presence. Sworn this 14th day January 1784 – Peter Dowell. Signed George Jones Esquire.



## Appendix Q

### Last Will and Testament of Martha Fox

In the name of God Amen I, **Martha [nee Gibbons] Fox**, of **Edgefield District state of South Carolina** being weak of body but of sound memory do make this my last will and testament;

1st, I give unto my daughter **Rebecca** one slave woman named Sylvia and her children named Sandy, also one other Negro woman named Betty, and my writing chair and harness to be at the disposal and control of my said daughter Rebecca, not liable to the control or the payment of the debts of her present husband or in case of his death and she the said Rebecca should again marry the aforementioned property shall not be considered as liable to the control or payment of the debts of any future husband, but I give the aforementioned property to my said daughter, Rebecca and to those she may will the same to be hers and their's forever;

2nd – Item – I give unto my son **Charles** one Negro woman named Mary, also one other Negro woman named Linda for his sole use, but if the said **Charles Fox** should die without an heir, then the aforementioned Negroes: Molly and Linda are to go to his brother, Joseph Fox;

3rd – I give to my daughter **Catherine Elizabeth**, also one Negro woman named Chloe called old Chloe, and one Negro woman named Chloe and her child named Hardy, and also one other Negro woman named Sarah, and my writing horse, the same not to be liable to the payment of the debts of her present or future husband, but to her and her bodily heirs forever;

4<sup>th</sup> - I give unto my son **Joseph William Fox** one Negro man named Cuffy, also one Negro girl named Molly, the aforementioned Negroes Cuffy and Molly to be employed by my son-in-law **William Young** to the best advantage for my said son Joseph William until my said son Joseph William arrives at the age of 21 years, but should my son Joseph William die before he arrives to the age of 21 years my will and desire is that the aforementioned Negroes coffee and Molly may go to his brother Charles Fox. Should both my sons Charles and Joseph William Fox die without any lawful heirs, this my will and desire is that the property I have left them should go to their sisters **Rebecca** and **Catherine Elizabeth** and their children forever, to be equally divided between the said Rebecca and Catherine Elizabeth. My will and desire is, if my Negro man Sampson that is now runaway should ever be found that he may be sold to the best advantage as may be adjudged by my executors, and the money arising from his sale to be equally divided between my four children.

I do hereby appoint and nominate my son-in-law **William Young** and my son **Charles Fox** executors to this my last will and testament, acknowledging this and no other to be my last will and testament. In testimony whereof I here unto set my hand and affixed my seal this the third day of January in the year of our Lord 1803. Signed, sealed and acknowledged in the presence of **Richardson Owen Scurry** and **Jacob Ernest Junior** – – **Martha Fox**.

South Carolina, Edgefield district: by John Simkins Esquire ordinary – – personally appeared before me **Jacob Ernest Junior** who duly sworn do make oath and say he was present and saw **Martha Fox** sign, seal, publish and deliver the within to be her last will and testament and that the said Martha Fox was then of sound and disposing mind and memory to the best of this deponent's knowledge and belief and that he saw Richardson Owen Scurry signed his name thereto at the request of the testator – – at the same time qualified **William Young and Charles Fox** given under my hand at the office the seventh day of March 1803. John Simkins O.E.D.

Recorded in Will Book A, Pages 182 – 3

Recorded June 9, 1803

Box 37, Package 1447.

## Appendix R

### Will of Elizabeth Clarke (Spann, nee Fox)

In the name of God Amen, I Elizabeth Clark of the state of South Carolina, Edgefield district, at present in the city of Augusta, being people in body but of sound mind and memory, do dispose of what worldly property it has pleased God to bless me in the manner following:

item 1 – I give and bequeath to John C McGehee in trust, for the sole use and benefit of my beloved son James Spann, my Negro boy Arthur; my house and lot (on which I resided) in the town of Columbia, also one half of my lands on red Bank Creek, waters of Saluda River, to the said John C and his assigns for ever in trust as aforesaid. It being my will and desire that my said son shall have and use and enjoy the rents and profits of the said property during the term of his life, and may bestow the same as he may think the property at his death – but that no part of the said property shall be in any wise liable for any debts he may now or hereafter owe;

item 2 I give and bequeath to John C McGehee and James H Hammond in trust for the sole use and benefit of my beloved daughter Catherine F Hammond, my Negro wench Daphne, my Negro winch Lucy and her child William and her future increase, (also with the consent of my son-in-law E Hammond) my Negro man Bob, brother of Daphne, also one half of all my land on red Bank Creek, waters of the Saluda River, to the said John C and James H and their assigns for ever, in trust as aforesaid. It being my will and desire that my daughter Catherine F shall alone have, use and enjoy, the higher, rents and profits of the said property, during the term of her life, and may bestow the same as she shall think proper at her death, or in default thereof, the said property shall be equally divided among the children of my said daughter Catherine F and their heirs forever;

item 3 having hereto for given to my beloved granddaughter, utilizing Amanda Whitner a Negro girl slave named mariaah, daughter of Lucy, I do hereby repeat and confirm the said gift, to her and her heirs for ever;

item 4 I do hereby give and bequeath my trusty African slave, Bob to Benjamin F Whitner as trustee. It is my will and desire that the said Bob as a reward for his faithfulness and affection, shall have the sole use and profit of his time and earnings during the remainder of his life, and that the said Benjamin Avenue will protect and support the said Bob as long as he may live;

item 5 I do hereby give and bequeath to Benjamin F Whitner and Joseph in Whitner in trust for the use and benefit of my beloved daughter Eliza and Whitner and her children, my Negro slave coffee, my household and kitchen furniture, and all other property of which I may die seized and possessed, to the said Benjamin F and Joseph in and their assigns for ever, in trust for the uses and purposes, and with all the powers more fully expressed in my deed to them dated the third instant;

item 6 I make no provision for my beloved grandchildren, orphans of my late daughter Rebecca Francis, not from any want of affection, but because they are already better provided for than any of the rest;

lastly, I appoint Benjamin F Whitner and John C McGehee executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 12th day of October in the year of our Lord 1827. Signed Elizabeth Clark

Signed, sealed and published as her last will and testament in the presence of Eliza Jones, George W Mallory, Ayres S Turpen.

Recorded in will book C, pages 251 and 252

recorded 26 November 1827

John Simkins, O. E. D.

## Appendix S

### Last will and testament of John Fox

Transcribed by Robert Atteberry, Carmichael CA. 27Jan2015

State of Georgia, Richmond County

**In the name of God** Amen I **John Fox** of **Marchmont** in the County and state aforesaid, being weak in body, but of sound and disposing mind and memory and desiring to dispose of my worldly affairs, do make ordain and publish this my writing as my last will and testament, hereby revoking and annulling all others heretofore made by me, and do declare my will to be as follows, viz:

It is my wish that my executors, herein after named do pay all my just debts, as soon as possible after my decease;

To my niece **Mrs. Catherine Beale**, wife of **Charles T Beale** of **Columbia County** having already liberally provided for her family I give and bequeath the sum of \$1000;

I give and bequeath unto **Mrs. Charlotte McGehee**, wife of **John McGehee** of **Florida**, the sum of \$1000;

I give and bequeath unto **Albert Dozier**, brother of the said **Charlotte McGehee**, the sum of \$1000;

I give and bequeath unto **Rebecca Dozier**, sister of the said **Albert Dozier** the sum of \$1000;

To **Norman Wallace** Esquire of Savannah I give and bequeath the sum of \$2000, in trust to and for the use of the two surviving daughters of **Anne E Murray**, daughter of **Peter Edwards**, deceased, state of **New Providence [Bahama's?]**; that is to say, \$1000 for the use of each of these surviving daughters, (or granddaughters);

To the said **Norman Wallace** I give and bequeath the further sum of \$2000 in trust to and for the use of **Lydia Edwards** daughter of the said **Peter Edwards** deceased;

I give and bequeath unto **John Young** of **Alabama**, son of the late **Col. William Young**, the sum of \$500;

It is my will and I hereby direct, that my executors pay over to some friend of **Mrs. Caroline Patterson** (formerly **Caroline Young**) to be selected by them, my said executors, the sum of \$500 for her sole and separate use;

I give and bequeath to the **First Presbyterian Church** of the city of **Augusta** (formerly called Christ Church) the sum of \$500;

I give and bequeath to the **Episcopal Church** in the city of **Savannah**, the sum of \$5000;

I give and bequeath to the **City of Augusta** the sum of \$10,000;

To **James Terry** Esquire of **Edgefield District South Carolina** I give and bequeath the sum of \$10,000 in trust that he will put out the same at interest in good security, or interested in some profitable stock and pay over the interest or individuals arising from the same to **Dr. James Spann** of the said district, during his natural life, and further that, in case of the death of the said **James Spann** in the lifetime of his present wife, I will pay over the said interest or dividends to his said surviving wife during her natural life, and upon the further trust that upon the decease of the **Dr. James Spann**, if he should outlive his said wife, or in case she should be the survivor then immediately after her death, he will pay over or transfer the same to my executors here in after named relative to the residue of my estate, provided nevertheless and such is express conditions of the above bequest that the said **Dr. James Spann** shall not present any claim against my estate for professional services rendered to my or any of my people in my lifetime, or on any account whatsoever; the above bequest being intended to operate as a final settlement of all accounts between us;

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To my friend **Antoine Pisquet** for his attentiveness to my businesses for more than two years I give and bequeath the sum of \$3000 to be considered as in full satisfaction for his services;

To **Amory Sibley** of **Augusta Georgia**, I give and bequeath the sum of \$2000 in trust to and for the use of **Augustus Bexley**, the adopted son of **Anne Bexley** of Augusta – the interest thereof to be applied as far as requisite, to the education and support of the said Augustus, during his minority and until he attained the age of 25 years; upon his attaining which age the said principal sum of \$2000 and any accumulated interest which may then be in the hands of the trustees to be paid over to him the said Augustus; and upon the further trust, that the **Amory Sibley** will, in case of the death of the said Augustus before attaining the said age of 25 years, pay over the said sum of \$2000 to the executors of this will, or the survivor or survivors of them to be by him or them disposed of under the several provisions hereinafter contained relative to the residue of my estate;

I give and bequeath unto **Peter Bermoth**, **Antoine Pisquet**, and **Henry H Cumming** of the city of **Augusta**, and to the survivors and survivor of them, my four female slaves Nancy, the mother of Sukey or Susan, this said Sukey or Susan and her two daughters Louisa and Anne with the earnest request that in consideration of their faithful service to me, and the interest I feel in them, they may be treated with kindness, and permitted to enjoy all the privileges they can, as slaves, legally enjoy under the existing laws of the state of Georgia; and to the end that the gift of the said slaves and the treatment of them according my wishes, herein before expressed, may not become burdensome to the said legatees I hereby give and bequeath unto them the said Peter Bermoth, Antoine Pisquet and Henry H Cumming and he survivors and survivor of them, 50 shares of the capital stock of the Bank of Augusta to be used by them according to their discretion, and carry into effect I said wishes in relation to the said female slaves, so far forth as may be compatible with the laws of the state of Georgia;

I give and bequeath unto **John Fox Brochon**, son of **Mr. D Brochon** of Augusta the sum of \$100; It is my will and my executors do not require, from **Mrs. Carey** of Augusta (widow of the late **Joseph Carey**) payment of any part of the rent which may be due by her, at the time of my decease, for the use and occupation of the tenement in which she now lives;

I give and bequeath unto the treasurer of the Augusta trust society, and to his successors in office, the sum of \$500, to and for the sole use and benefit of the said society;

It is my will and desire that my executors proceed to erect and complete all improvements either contracted for or in progress on my several lots in the city of Augusta; contracts were which have been made, for me, by **Antoine Pisquet** who is fully acquainted with them and especially requested to superintend the execution of them;

To enable my executors more conveniently to carry into effect the several provisions of this my last will and testament herein before and here in after contained it is my wish and desire and I hereby order and direct that, all my estate, of what kind soever, not here and specifically bequeathed or devised, be sold, by my executors, as soon after my decease as a may deem expedient, on such notices (not less than 30 days) and at such times and places, and upon such terms, as they may deem best for the interests of my said estate;

It is further my will and desire that, after the payment of my just debts and the legacies herein before mentioned the residue of the proceeds of my estate be divided into five equal parts, of which I dispose of as follows: viz.:

I give and bequeath one fifth part of said residue to the treasurer of the **American Bible Society** and to his successors in office, for the sole use, benefit and behoof of the said American Bible Society;

## Appendix S

I give and bequeath also one fifth part of the said residue to the treasurer of the [American Education Society](#) for the sole use and benefit of the said American education society;

I give and bequeath one other fifth part of the said residue unto the treasurer of the [American Board of Commissions for Foreign Missions](#) and to his successors in office, for the sole use, benefit and behoof of the said American Board of Commissions for Foreign Missions;

I give and bequeath one other fifth part of the said residue to the treasurer of the [Augusta Free School Society](#), and to his successors in office, for the sole use benefit and behoof of the said Augusta free school society;

And I give and bequeath the remaining fifth part of the said residue to the treasurer of the [Domestic Missionary Society of Georgia](#) and to his successors in office to and for the sole use, benefit and behoof of the said domestic missionary Society of Georgia;

Lastly, I hereby constitute and appoint [Peter Bermoch](#), [Antoine Pisquet](#) and [Henry H Cumming](#), all of the city of Augusta, and he survivors and survivor of them, the executors and executor of this my last will and testament.

In testimony whereof, I the said [John Fox](#), have to this my last will and testament (contained in the three preceding pages of this sheet) set my hand and seal this 31st day of January in the year of our Lord 1837.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said [John Fox](#) as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us, who, at his request, and in his presence, in the presence of each other, have hereto subscribed our names as witnesses to the same, this 31st day of January in the year of our Lord 1837. Note word 30th erased in place of 31st interlined in its stead (both on this page) before signing by us and ceiling and signing by the testator. Signed and sealed: [John Fox](#)  
[Garrett Lawrence](#), [William Glendenning](#), [L Alexander Dugas](#)

Georgia, Richmond County: personally appeared before us [Lewis A. Dugas](#) one of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing as Tremont of writing, who being duly sworn saith that he was personally present and did see John Fox signed, sealed, published and declare the same to be his last will and testament, and he was of sound and disposing mind and memory to the best of his knowledge and belief; and that he together with [Garrett Lawrence](#) and [William Glendenning](#) signed the same as witnesses at the request and in the presence of the testator or and of each other. Sworn to before us this 22 February 1837: A. W. Verdery and John Rinmore, Esquire's. whereupon ordered that the same be submitted to the next court of ordinary for record.



### **James Dunwoody Brownson Debow**

James Dunwoody Brownson Debow is believed to have derived his name through a kinship between his father and the wife of James Dunwoody Brownson. This seems the only logical explanation for someone to be christened with the complete name (first, middle and last) of a little known country doctor from St. Helena, SC. Debow's father is believed to have been Garret Debow, who purportedly migrated from New Jersey to Charleston around 1800. In the South Carolina Archives are records of a Dr. William Debow starting in 1802; Garret Debow in 1806; and John Debow in 1807. However, there are also newspaper advertisements for a John Debow in Charleston as early as 1792/3. Since these three Debow men suddenly appear in Charleston records at about the same date, and because of the unique nature of their surname, it seems logical to assume a shared kinship among all three. The earlier instance of John Debow almost 10 years before any other records suggests that the later records may have been for sons of the initial John Debow in the 1790's. In an 1804 record William Debow was recorded with the title of Doctor, presumably a medical doctor, and in 1805 with a wife named Hannah. All of the records associated with these Debows involved either the sale or purchase of a slave or a judgment, so presumably they were all engaged in some form of mercantilism. One record in 1813 involved a judgment against both William Debow and John Debow, clearly indicating a likely kinship, perhaps brothers. That same 1813 judgment record was the last entry found for William Debow. In the 1820 census record was a household in Charleston headed by a Mrs. Debow, probably the household of William Debow's widow, Hannah Debow. On 18Oct1828 was recorded a judgment in favor of William A. Caldwell against Mary D. [B.] Debow, Administratrix of Garret Debow. Also, on that same date was another judgment entered against Mary Bridget Debow. These last two records suggest that Garret Debow had died sometime just prior to Oct1828, and that his widow, Mary Bridget Debow had been appointed his administrator.

In the 1830 census was a record for the household of Mary Debow in Charleston, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, headed by a female aged 50 to 59, with another female aged 30-39, plus four young males and two young females. One of the young males in this household is believed to have been James Dunwoody Brownson Debow, who is reported to have been born on 10Jul1820 in Charleston. This very likely was the household of Garret Debow's widow, Mary Bridget [Norton?].

A John Debow continued to be reported in the Archival records up to a final entry dated 1849 wherein he was a signatory to a petition requesting incorporation of Friendship Tent No. 314, Independent Order of the Rechabites. In the 1830 census was a household headed by a John Debow. In that household was an adult male aged 80 to 89, another adult male aged 60 to 69, two males 20 to 29, two males 15 to 19, a female aged 50 to 59, a female aged 20 to 29 and a female aged 10 to 14. An analysis of the composition of this household suggests the presence of four generations under one roof. It seems probable that the male aged 60 to 69 was the person named as head of household, John Debow. In some newspaper articles in the 1820's and 30's there was reference to a John Debow Jr. It seems possible that John Debow Jr. may have been

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this head of household, and that the elder male in the household may have been John Debow Sr., father of John, William and Garret. The male and female aged 20 to 29 may have been a married child of John Debow with their spouse. The identity of the youngest members of this household is uncertain, perhaps a mixture of children and grandchildren of John Debow Jr. Until this 1830 census, there was no evidence found of the elder male member shown in John Debow's household. It seems probable that he was the John Debow who appeared in records in Charleston in the 1790's, and that he had resided elsewhere until returning to live with his son in Charleston in the 1820's. By the 1840 census all records of Debows had disappeared from Charleston.

Given the 1849 record which seems to affiliate John Debow with the formation of a Rachabite Tent in Charleston, it suggests that this Debow family may have been members of a rather esoteric branch of Judaism.

James Dunwoody Brownson Debow graduated college in 1843. Following is a brief biography of James Dunwoody Brownson Debow:

"James Dunwoody Brownson Debow was born in Charleston, SC on 10Jul1820. His father, Garret Debow, [is believed to have] moved to South Carolina from New Jersey, and died in poverty after an unsuccessful career as a merchant in Charleston. On his mother's side, Debow was descended from the Nortons, who were among the earliest settlers in the State; and as two of his father's family, John and James Debow, fought with the colonists in the war of independence, Debow was certainly of the truest aristocracy a country can have – its founders and defenders.

Left an orphan and in poverty at an early age [8 years old], Debow was thrown upon his own resources, and worked seven years in a mercantile house, where, in spite of trying conditions, he managed to save enough money to send himself, first to Cokesbury Institute, in Abbeville District, and later to Charleston College. Before his course at the latter was completed, however, his money gave out; but, by dint and strenuous efforts, he managed to support himself while continuing his studies, and graduated with first honors."<sup>211</sup>

Evaluation the census records of the Debow families reported in 1800 thru 1840 in Charleston, SC suggests that Garret, William and John were all of similar ages, within about 10 years of one another. William and John appeared in 1800 and Garret did not appear until 1810. John Debow appears to have been the older of the three men, as he was reported being over 45 in 1810, whereas William and Garret were both 26 to 44. William may have been the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest, since he was recorded as Dr. William Debow in 1805 suggesting that he had already completed qualifications as a medical doctor before leaving New Jersey sometime shortly before 1800. Although, it should be noted that Garret Debow's widow was reported aged 50 to 59 in 1830, suggesting that Garret probably was born about 1775 to 1780.

In order for Garret and Mary Bridget Debow to have named a son James Dunwoody Brownson, it seems highly likely that someone within their immediate family had a strong family connection to Dr. James Dunwoody Brownson of St. Helena Parish, Beaufort District. There are reports of a woman named Arabella Amanda Debow, born in St. Helena Parish, Beaufort District, SC around 1818, and who was interred in the Chapel of Ease Church Cemetery, St Helena Island, South Carolina on 28May1840. Some researchers would have us believe that Arabella Debow's father was named Garret Debow, and that she was the wife of Peter William Perry, married on

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<sup>211</sup> Four Southern Magazines, Edward Rieihold Rogers, June 1902, pp. 20-1.

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16May1839. In fact, Peter William Perry was recorded in the 1850 census living with his mother, Sarah [Fripp] Perry and presumably his daughter, Mary Isabella. This Perry household was located within the same neighborhood as that of Elizabeth J. Brownson Wallace [Inu]. So, if the reported information about Arabella Amanda Debow is correct, then there was a Debow living in very close geographic proximity to Dr. Brownson and his widow, Elizabeth Wallace. From this information it is reasonable to assume that there must have been some sort of kinship connection between Arabella Bedow and the wife of Dr. Brownson, perhaps her aunt. It is further reasonable to assume that there was some kinship connection between Garret Debow, Charleston liquor merchant and Dr. Brownson's wife sufficiently close to cause Garret to name his son for Dr. Brownson. There just are not sufficient pieces of the puzzle available to the author to establish the nature of those kinships.

