

BARBER

The Irish Rebellion of 1798, which cost Robert Emmet his life, sent James Barber and his half brother John as refugees to South Carolina. They were reputed to be officers in Emmet's organization, and had to leave their Ulster home on that account.

James had initiative and energy. He purchased 650 acres of land and planted part of it, ran a store, acquired a few slaves, and was an officer of the Mount Olivet Presbyterian Church just north of his place. His store was the assembly place for the whole country side, as shown by the three hundred names on his well kept accounts.

His children grew to maturity there, the son Robert Gunning remaining unmarried until his death in 1829. Eliza married Robert Richmond, and her father gave her a place to live on. Jane married Hugh Barkley, the son of a neighbor.

Both James Barber and his wife died in the month of November, 1824. He was 64 years old and she was 54. His will, signed June 23, 1824, and recorded April 27, 1825, is on file in the County Courthouse. To his wife he bequeathed, in addition to the property brought with her at her marriage, the horse named Jack to draw her chair; one bedstead to be made by Thomas Minton as good as he can make; the second best table and six sitting chairs of her own choice.

To his son, Robert Gunning Barber, he left the home place, boundaries defined and ending in "a straight line to my Still House Spring." Also the large bed, bedstead, and furniture upstairs, six sitting chairs brought from Charleston, the sideboard, clock, largest table, and my negro man Bob.

To his daughter, Eliza Richmond, he bequeathed "the land where-

on she now lives," and also two negro men named Stephen and Jessie.

To his daughter, Jane Barkley, and her husband Hugh Barkley, he gave the land between the said Hugh Barkley's land and Samuel Johnston's private road as far as Mushetts Branch, and up said branch to my land, and also my negro man named Glassgo.

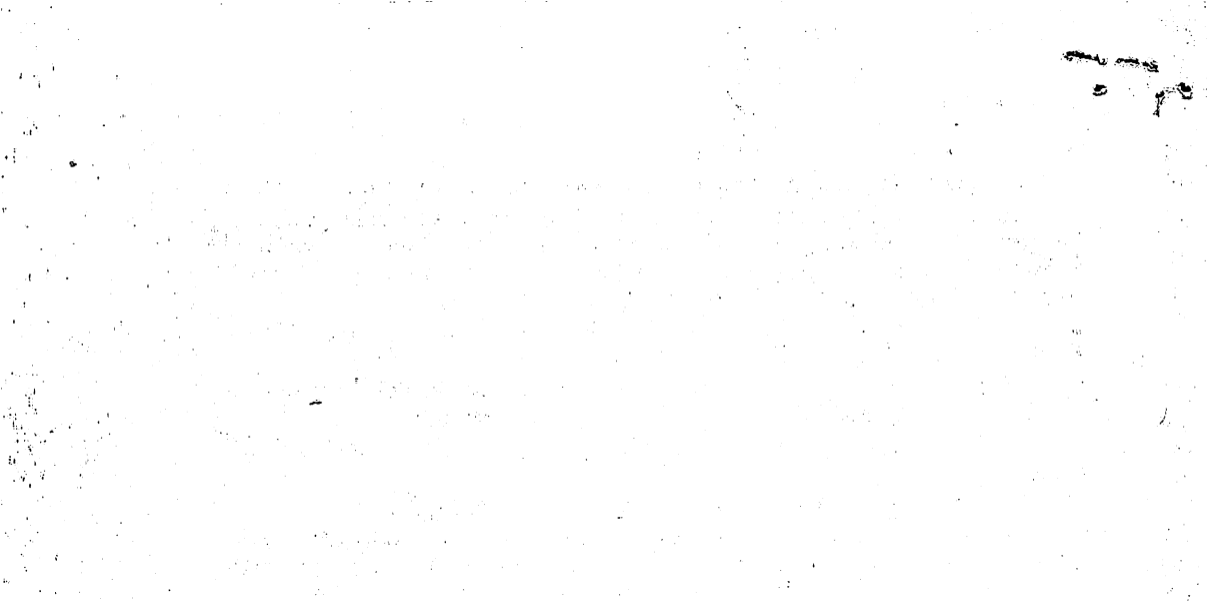
To his grandsons James Barber Richmond and James Barber Barkley one hundred dollars each.

To his nephew James Barber, and to James Barber Smith, and to James Barber McCully the sum of fifty dollars each.


To his brother John, two hundred dollars and his best suit of clothes.

The remainder of his estate equally to his children.

The tombstones of James Barber and his wife stand in Mount Olivet (Wateree) church yard. His name still lives through the descendants of the five boys who were named for him.



ELBOW HILL



The old Indian trail from the Congaree nation to the country of the Catawbas and Cherokees followed the high meandering central ridge which forms the watershed between the Broad and Catawba rivers. The railroad later used this same route. About three miles north of Winnboro, near the McMaster curve, a branch trail diverged to the right to follow the high ground past Roseland and along the ridge until it nosed out over Beaver Dam Creek. It then dipped down and crossed the stream to climb up a steep elbow shaped spur to the level of the plateau which contains the present Mt. Olivet Church.

This tableland must have been the scene of much Indian activity judging from the wealth of arrow heads and stone implements which have been picked up, even to the present day. It is a commanding site, looking west to White Oak, north to Rocky Mount, east to Flint Hill, and south to the Mount Zion Hill.

In time, Beaver Dam Creek became Johnson's Creek; the trail up the crooked hill became the county road to Rocky Mount. The deep cut in the road retained it's elbow, and as travel increased it became



the scene of accident and death. It began to be called Devil's Elbow and the crest overlooking the creek, Devil's Elbow Hill.

It was rather nice over the hill once you climbed it. The irregular rolling top, shaped something like a clover leaf, was not large in extent and did not promise much of bounteous living, but the headlands were covered with oak trees, and made pleasant sites for homes. The little valleys between had springs and trickling streams with little waterfalls over outcroppings of granite, and offered good places for stills and ponds.

It pleased Hugh Smith, for on November 6th, 1786, he paid 12 pounds and 14 shillings and received a grant of 545 acres from Governor Moultrie. He was followed by Robert Wilson, who bought the land from Smith, and who in 1791, received a grant of 105 acres of adjoining land. This was probably the same Robert Wilson, who sold his Winnsborough land to the Mount Zion Society for the college.

Then in 1798 came James Barber, thirty-eight years old, with his wife Sarah Gunning, his son Robert, twelve, and two younger daughters Eliza and Jane. His prayer must have been "God give me hills to climb and strength to climb them." For he bought the land from Robert Wilson and, for better or worse, it has remained in the possession of his children and his children's children.

